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32 pages of fashion, food and fun

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Ex-ministers turn on challenger

Double blow to Howard's bid for leadership

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD'S Tory leadership bid suffered a serious setback yesterday with revelations that two former ministerial colleagues plan to go public with damaging allegations about his performance as Home Secretary.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister of State from July 1995, will break her silence over Mr Howard's controversial dismissal of Derek Lewis as director general of the Prison Service in October 1995.

Miss Widdecombe, who fiercely opposed the decision and is supporting Peter Lilley for the leadership, will make a series of criticisms of Mr Howard's role in a letter to John Major. In a move aimed at limiting Mr Howard's chances of succeeding Mr Major, she will publish the letter only weeks before the first leadership ballot.

She has also not ruled out making a highly charged personal statement to the House of Commons about the controversy over Mr Lewis. Such a move would stir memories of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech which fatally wounded Margaret Thatcher. It could inflict serious damage on Mr Howard's campaign.

But the attack will not be restricted to the row over Mr Lewis, who was dismissed, against the advice of senior prison managers, in October 1995.

Miss Widdecombe, who has told friends that Mr Howard is "dangerous stuff" and has "something of the night" in his personality, will seek to raise concern among the 164 MPs voting in the contest about his ability to withstand pressure, his man-management



"I've got the dream ticket" - William Hague and Baby Spice

skills, and alleged refusal to accept blame when the going gets tough. Friends of Mr Howard rallied to his defence and said MPs would see through the Widdecombe attack. David Maclean, a former Home Office minister, is a key member of the Howard campaign team. "It shows that he is a good minister to work with," said one Howard supporter.

But as Mr Howard's supporters attempted to play down the intervention of Miss Widdecombe, who they dismissed as acting out of "personal pique," they suffered a second blow. The Times has learnt that Charles Wardle, a former Home Office immigration minister, is planning to raise an issue in the Commons which has dogged Mr Howard and the Tory Party.

Mr Wardle is seeking an adjournment debate to raise a damning report by the Department of Trade and Industry into the take-

over of Harrods by Mohamed Al Fayed. The report led to a serious clash between Mr Howard and Mr Wardle. Mr Wardle rejected, on the advice of Home Office civil servants, a citizenship application by Mr Al Fayed's brother. Relations between Mr Howard and Mr Wardle, whose decision was upheld, have never recovered. If Mr Wardle secures his debate before the leadership election it could renew the pressure on Mr Howard.

A friend of Mr Wardle, who has not decided which candidate to support but will choose between John Redwood, William Hague and Peter Lilley, said last night: "Charles is not being vindictive against Michael Howard. But he believes there are things that have to come out now because there are too many unresolved issues and questions left hanging in the air."

The move by Mr Wardle has prompted some friends of Mr Howard to speculate on whether there is an organised "stop Howard" campaign. All six leadership camps have taken vows not to act against each other. But some of Mr Howard's supporters suspect that "dirty tricks" are afoot.

The launch of Mr Howard's leadership bid was overshadowed last week when his supporters leaked details of an apparent agreement, struck over champagne, for Mr Hague to act as his deputy.

Mr Howard appeared relaxed yesterday about the plan by Miss Widdecombe to go public. He told the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "Ann and I disagreed about a very important decision, the dismissal of Derek Lewis as head of the prison service."

"I had to overrule her because there was an independent report which made very serious criticisms of the prison service management from top to bottom."

"Ann felt very strongly about that. We disagreed. I am convinced the decision we made was the right one and few decisions have been subject to more Parliamentary scrutiny - including a debate on the floor of the House of Commons - than that one."

A key aide to Mr Howard said: "People will see through this. It is personally motivated. One of the key members of the campaign team is David Maclean. That will speak volumes. He was one of the most talented members of the government and he is supporting Michael."

The controversy over Mr Lewis's sacking and prison standards led to a full-scale Commons row two years ago. Mr Howard suffered an embarrassment when the Home Office made a £200,000 settlement to Mr Lewis after he took the case to court for wrongful dismissal.

Hague campaign, page 2
Letters, page 21



Chiara Mastroianni, daughter of the late Marcello Mastroianni, at the screening of Johnny Depp's *The Brave* at Cannes. Reports page 7; reviews, page 19

Cook denies single currency rumours

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, today squashes speculation in financial markets about Britain joining a European single currency at an early stage.

In an interview with *The Times*, he says this remains "unlikely" before the next election and claims that the decision has not been affected by the Government's move to transfer responsibility for setting interest rates to the Bank of England. He says the decision was purely about interest rate policy in Britain. Page 20

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Budget will include phasing-out of Miras

By Arthur Leathley and Alasdair Murray

GORDON BROWN will use his first Budget to open a purge on the "get-rich-quick" culture and to use new taxes to fund a radical five-year welfare programme.

One of the biggest changes will be the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief that gives about 10 million homeowners help of £27 a month. Mr Brown is also preparing to begin an overhaul of the corporate taxation system in the mini-Budget which may come as soon as June 10.

Mr Brown has told colleagues that the mortgage relief, or Miras, cannot be sustained by a Labour Government and he will continue the phasing out the relief begun by the Conservatives but put on hold in the run-up to the election. At present, tax relief is given at 15 per cent on the first £30,000 but Mr Brown is understood to consider the allowance an anachronism and

believes that money should be channelled into providing housing for the homeless.

However, the Chancellor is not expected to end the relief at a stroke but is likely to signal a gradual phasing out by removing the allowance from new mortgages. Although estate agents insist that such a move will harm the housing market in its early stages of recovery, government sources argue that the property market is becoming strong enough to withstand the change.

The Chancellor will unveil a range of measures extending well beyond the windfall tax and value-added tax proposals announced before the general election.

As well as taxing what he describes as the excessive short-term profits of the privatised utilities, Mr Brown will announce the allowance an anachronism and

cathedral-like dining room opposite an imposing statue of the Duke of Wellington he will wear his "working clothes", an aide said yesterday.

The change comes only days after the Prime Minister decreed "call me Tony" at his first Cabinet meeting. The decision was also based on pragmatism by the canny chancellor.

Only last year the formal dress for this occasion was changed from white tie to black. Mr Brown

GORDON BROWN will abandon formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech next month. Mr Brown, who has already won plaudits from the Square Mile for surrendering control over interest rates to the Bank of England, has slain another sacred cow.

When he rises to his feet in the

Pragmatic Brown suits himself in the City

By Andrew Pierce and Carol Midgley

GORDON BROWN will abandon formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech next month. Mr Brown, who has already won plaudits from the Square Mile for surrendering control over interest rates to the Bank of England, has slain another sacred cow.

intends to relax the code even further.

Lord Mayors of London have been hosting the dinner at the Mansion House, a focus of the business community, since 1877. They regard it as an important social bridge between the City and the Government especially on the frequent occasions when the two are otherwise barely on speaking terms.

Mr Brown's decision will create a dilemma for the 350 guests, who

resemble a Who's Who of the City and business world. Will they take their cue from the Chancellor or from Alderman Roger Cork, the Lord Mayor?

An aide to the Lord Mayor said: "As you know the City is a very formal place. Black ties are the normal practice in the City and the West End. The Mansion House speech is a very formal occasion. But if the principal guest decides to wear something less formal he will not be made any less welcome."

Tehran appeals for quake aid from the West

From James Bone, New York

IRAN'S Islamic Government last night appealed to the United Nations for help after a powerful earthquake devastated villages in the mountainous northeast of the country. Latest estimates put the death toll at some 2,400.

The earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, on Saturday levelled houses in scores of villages across the saffron-producing province of Khorasan, which borders Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Some 10,000 families are believed to have been made homeless.

Tehran officially called for emergency shipments of food, tents, blankets, clothing, four-wheel-drive vehicles, ambulances and water tankers, life detectors and white sheets, presumably for use as shrouds.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, urged the international community to "respond promptly and with generosity", and several Western governments immediately stepped forward with contributions of help.

The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs announced an emergency grant of \$50,000 (£30,000) for the local purchase of relief supplies. It also put a small disaster assessment and co-ordination team on standby for immediate despatch to the area. A small team of UN officials based in Iran also travelled to the earthquake zone to make a preliminary assessment of damage. Aircraft, however, were flying only as far as Mashhad, the provincial capital. The epicentre is about 230 miles further south near the city of Qayen.

Rescue race, page 10

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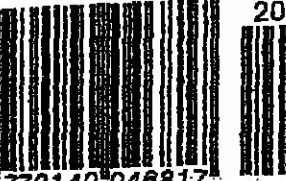
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Lottery shake-up seeks to abolish giant profits

Arthur Leathley on plans by Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, to switch funds to education and health

RADICAL changes to the running of the National Lottery will be introduced by the new Government as ministers act to curb profits for the operator.

The lottery regulator's current dual role in awarding the next lottery contract, and checking that the national draw is properly run, will be abolished.

Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, is also drawing up plans to prevent the company awarded the next contract from making profits out of the £4 billion a year business.

New legislation to be announced on Wednesday will also ensure that two separate regulators will in

future be involved in the separate functions of awarding the lucrative contract and checking that it is being run in the best interest of the public.

The moves, to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech, are in response to public criticism of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, who was accused of being too closely involved with one of the companies behind Camelot, the lottery operator.

Mr Davis accepted hospitality from GTEch, an American company that led the Camelot bid for the contract, and he was forced to

defend himself against claims that the hospitality had influenced his decision to award the contract.

A lottery bill to be introduced in the autumn will ensure that the contract goes to a non-profit organisation. Extra funds will be channelled into additional educational and health-care projects as the Government curbs the amount of money available as profit.

Labour insists that the new money, expected to be £1 billion over five years, will not reduce the amount currently paid to sport, the arts, heritage projects and chari-

ties. The position of Mr Davis himself is also in doubt as senior Labour figures have voiced concerns over his past failure to insist that Camelot gained smaller profits from the venture.

Although Camelot insists that its profits represent less than one per cent of turnover, Mr Smith believes that all money should go to good causes and running costs.

The lottery will not come under the windfall tax proposed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, on excessive profits of some companies. Senior Labour figures

made clear that Camelot did not come under the privatised companies intended to be hit by the one-off tax.

Labour also wants to ensure a quick decision on the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition and would "talk tough" with British Telecom over the plans for the information superhighway promised in return for a faster entry into the entertainment market.

Mr Smith said yesterday that the next lottery contract, due for renewal in four years, will not allow profits to be made out

"Once the initial franchise comes to an end in about three or four years, we can go for a non-profit organisation, so that every single penny that we can get goes either to prizes or to good causes rather than into the pockets of the people who are running it," he said.

"What I am concerned about is to make sure that the way in which the lottery is being regulated is indeed good and tough on behalf of the people who play the lottery."

When Camelot was awarded its seven-year contract, it forecast that

it would not make a profit for at least three years. In the event, the company recovered start-up costs within six months.

In 1995 it earned a pre-tax profit of £10.8 million. In 1996, its first full year, it had pre-tax profits of £77.5 million on turnover of £5.2 billion. In the first six months of the current year, profits were £20.8 million.

Camelot's shareholders are: Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery company; De La Rue, the security printer; ICL, the computer company; Racal Electronics; GTEch Corporation, the US lottery specialist. Last year they shared a dividend of £18.4 million.

Hague takes his message to party's grass roots

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

WILLIAM HAGUE is to take his campaign for the Tory leadership to the party's local activists. Mr Hague, who is emerging as a popular choice as the successor to John Major, will embark next week on a tour of constituency associations in a bid to harness the support of local Conservatives. The former Welsh Secre-

debating society on Europe. "All areas of policy are up for review. We must be prepared to change anything and everything, except our core principles," he said.

Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, Mr Hague said: "We need to bring thousands of new people in the party — people of my generation whose support we haven't tapped into in recent years and say to them: 'help us to develop our policies.'"

He said the Conservatives would have to show it was "ruthlessly intolerant" of sleaze and misbehaviour in the party. "We have to get rid of the image and make clear we are as intolerant of what has become known as sleaze as anybody else in the country."

Mr Hague said that the general election reflected the volatility of voters' preferences and that they would soon become "fed up" of the Labour Government. "I dare to say we will win the next general election. Just because we have lost by a large margin doesn't mean the voters have moved away from us forever."

William Hill has made William Hague odds-on favourite to be next leader of the Tories. The bookmaker cut his odds from 11-10 to 4-7 and offers 9-2 Kenneth Clarke, 11-2 Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, 14-1 Stephen Dorrell and 16-1 John Redwood.

tary, 36, said yesterday that the Conservative Party needed a completely fresh approach to regain voter appeal.

"We are going to make a fresh start... and put behind us the disputes that have dogged the party," he said. Rifts had to be healed, Mr Hague said, and the Conservatives must not become a



William Hague and his leadership rival Michael Howard were both interviewed by Sir David Frost yesterday

Another contender for the Tory leadership, Stephen Dorrell, called yesterday for a "thoroughgoing reform" of the structure of the Conservative Party.

The former Health Secretary gave warning that the party would have to change and adapt or face the prospect of further election defeats.

Speaking on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, Mr Dorrell admitted that the Tories had often appeared to

be nothing more than a "rabble" during the last Parliament and that this had contributed to their defeat.

It seems that the former Welsh Secretary has been given a boost by the backing of senior Tories and a Gallup poll showing he has by far the most electoral appeal of all the candidates.

Mr Hague's chances have been helped by evidence that he is likely to gain the overwhelming backing of the con-

stituency associations. They cannot vote — the franchise is limited to Tory MPs — but are consulted by their MPs.

The former Conservative Cabinet minister Lord Tebbit, writing in *The Sunday Times*, praised John Redwood, who resigned from the Government in 1995 to make his first challenge for the Tory party leadership. Lord Tebbit said: "Mr Redwood was not on the bridge when the captain of the ship rammed it on to the

rocks. At any court of inquiry, less blame must attach to the man shouting 'alter course, rocks ahead' than to those who failed to see the danger ahead or reason to alter course."

"Despite that, my wholehearted support would go to Howard, Lilley or Redwood — whoever is elected. And I hope that if any one of these is seen to be the clearly favoured candidate the others will fall in behind before nominations close."

Ministers fear guns ban will disrupt schedule

By Staff Reporters

FIREARMS campaigners yesterday welcomed Tony Blair's proposal to ban all handguns by the end of the year, but he faces resistance from senior ministers.

The Prime Minister signalled that the Queen's Speech will announce plans to extend the Firearms Act outlawing full-bore pistols to include less powerful .22 weapons.

Senior party figures fear the debate will take up time needed for other legislation and believe it should wait until next year. One Cabinet minister said yesterday: "There are important measures of our own that we have been waiting to introduce for 18 years without having to 'tidy up' recent Tory legislation. I'm not sure we need to revisit this quite so soon."

However, the Prime Minister has a personal commitment to the issue. He was said to be deeply moved after meeting families of the Dunblane victims last year and has invited them to a private audience in London tomorrow, the day before the Queen's Speech.

His pledge to outlaw all handguns and offer a free vote last October followed a speech to the party conference by Ann Pearson, organiser of the Snowdrop campaign. Mrs Pearson, who knew many of the 16 children who died alongside their teacher in the massacre in March last year, said yesterday: "Ordinary people are walking with a spring in their step. They feel they have been listened to. I felt quite emotional and uplifted myself this morning."

Dr Mick North, whose daughter Sophie, aged five, was among the 16 dead children, said a delegation was making arrangements for the trip. "We welcome the news that this is going to be included in the first Queen's Speech. I certainly felt it was important to deal with this straightaway. I think it is a reflection of the Government's own concerns."

Shooting organisations argue that a total ban would be draconian and ineffective. Mike Yardley, national spokesman for the Sportsman's Association, said compensation and the job losses would cost the taxpayer millions of pounds. He forecast the closure of many rifle clubs, which depend on revenue from handgun owners.

"We seem to be seeing political correctness evolving into a new authoritarianism," he said. "This legislation is not about saying to people you can only keep guns at a club, it is about completely wiping out an historic sport and our Olympic and Commonwealth Games shooting teams, all to give the illusion that something effective has been done."

GCHQ union ban to be lifted

Civil service union leaders are expecting a government announcement this week which will lift the 13-year ban on trade union membership at the GCHQ Intelligence Centre in Cheltenham.

"We warmly welcome the opportunity for the restoration of the right of GCHQ workers to join a union," said an official of the biggest civil service union, the Public Services, Tax and Commerce union. The ban was imposed by Margaret Thatcher's Government in 1984.

Girl hopes fade

Hopes of finding Kirsty Tisdale, 14, alive appeared to be fading after Paul Pearson, 30, her cousin, who had been questioned over her disappearance, committed suicide. Kirsty was last seen close to her home in Charlton, south London, last Sunday. But on Friday Mr Pearson was found dead at the house where he lived with his mother.

Hunger strike

Asylum seekers being held at Wintson Green prison in Birmingham are refusing food in protest at conditions. The Prison Service has confirmed: "Ten men refusing food but still accepting fluids are said to be angry at being kept in a jail while their applications for refugee status are considered by the Home Office."

Bhutto visit

Speculation that Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister of Pakistan, will seek political asylum in Britain has been increased by a private visit to London, during which she was said to be looking at schools for her children. Mrs Bhutto and her husband are facing charges of alleged corruption.

Yates denial

Paula Yates's mother denied reports that Hughie Green was the father of her daughter, Heather Bonham, 39, said from the South of France. "Paula was conceived a month after my marriage to Jess Yates." A friend of Mr Green claimed at his funeral that the television host had fathered an illegitimate daughter.

Toy ferry launch

Liverpool's answer to Thomas the Tank Engine — a ferry called Gerry — is set for a summer launch on the River Mersey by Peter Ogumaji, a businessman. He hopes that the new toy, developed with the help of Liverpool University, can restore toy manufacturing to Liverpool, which was the original home of Meccano.

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Tax shake-up

Continued from page 1

nounce plans to discourage savers and corporate investors from short-term investments. He will also use his mini-Budget to outline a range of longer-term intentions that will be introduced in later Budgets.

The package is intended to raise more than £5 billion towards plans to create jobs and provide housing for the homeless. Mr Brown has made clear that his public spending review will be completed in time to allow him to implement a three-year spending plan from 1998 to prompt increases in priority areas.

He promised a Bill releasing, over time, £5 billion of capital receipts from council house sales to kick-start a massive new social housing programme and action to find jobs for a million single mothers.

The windfall tax is also intended to fund a programme to bring long-term unemployed and the young into work.

The windfall tax, under which privatised utilities will face a one-off tax on "excessive profits", will be the centrepiece of the Budget. Labour aides suggest that the money raised from the tax will be higher than the £3 billion initially expected.

Mr Brown hinted yesterday that BT was likely to be included alongside the privatised utilities, a move that is certain to hit the company's share price when trading be-

gins this morning. Although water and electricity companies were known to be prime targets of Mr Brown's windfall tax, there was considerable doubt about BT.

Analysts believe BT could escape lightly, given the prominent role the company is expected to play in the Government's ambitious plans to upgrade Britain's access to information technology over the next few years.

The Chancellor has been critical of the taxation system which he believes encourages companies to pay cash to shareholders through dividends rather than reinvesting in their businesses.

Mr Brown has also expressed concern that institutional and private shareholders are not encouraged to hold shares for the long term under the current taxation system. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, said that Mr Brown was acting "in a tearing hurry" and would cause long-term harm to Britain's economic prospects.

To start playing about with corporate taxation, taxation on investment as he is proposing, is very dangerous indeed."

The Chancellor is considering plans which include the phasing out of advanced corporation tax, changes in the rate of corporate taxation and the introduction of two rates of capital gains tax. A thorough reform of the corporate taxation is likely to prove too complicated to complete before the mini-Budget.

Lib Dems lay claim to Scotland Shadow role

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

THE Liberal Democrats are to challenge the right of the Tories to field a Shadow Scottish Secretary against the Government in the Commons, after the defeat of every Conservative MP in Scotland.

Liberal Democrat representatives are to meet the Speaker of the House, Betty Boothroyd, to argue that their party should be recognised as the official opposition on Scottish issues.

They want their spokesman on Scottish affairs, Jim Wallace, to appear at the dispatch box opposite the Scottish Sec-

retary, Donald Dewar. The Liberal Democrats have ten seats in Scotland.

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said the decision was for the Commons authorities. "The Scottish Secretary will take Scottish questions at Scottish Question Time. It is not really a matter for him who is the person at the dispatch box."

The Liberal Democrats and the Tories are also both laying claim to the part of the Opposition front bench which is not occupied by the Shadow Cabinet.

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They grow up fast and they are living extra months. Now scientists suggest massage for older pets

Dogs are taking a little longer to have their day

By LIN JENKINS

LIFE goes by so fast. Middle age arrives before you know it. But then, the older years are lasting longer and you need someone to look after your aching bones.

This was the new image of a dog's life yesterday. Scientific endeavour has discovered that it is longer, if not harder, than we thought.

While most of Britain's 6.5 million dog owners persist in thinking that one dog year equates to seven of our own, veterinary science has abandoned the classroom method of assessing equivalent ages and revealed that so rapid is

canine development that a one-year-old dog is like a fully grown and sexually mature 18 year old.

Your dog has reached its late teens by its first birthday and by its second it had been to university, got its degree, bought its first house and the baby is on the way," according to David Watson, a veterinary surgeon who has been researching the greying of our canine population.

Man's best friend, like its owner, is living longer and prompting the massive commercial interests in the pet industry to adapt products for

those greying around the muzzle. Dogs are living on average 18 months longer than they did 30 years ago, probably because of better general care and feeding.

Middle age for most dogs comes at about six or seven, which equates to a human in their mid to late 40s. A significant number of mongrels, if not their purebred pedigree cousins, now live into the late 20s or even early twenties.

The study found that one third of dogs were classed as "seniors" — aged seven or eight or older depending on the breed — while just 10 per cent were in the puppy and junior bands.

The oldest dog known to have lived in the United Kingdom was either the Welsh collie Taffy who died at the home of its owner, Evelyn Brown, in West Bromwich, West Midlands, at the age of 27 years and 313 days, or the black Labrador Adjutant, owned by a game keeper in Boston, Lincolnshire, which died aged 27 years and three months in November 1963.

The new comparative ages are based on studies for the research arm of Pedigree Chums, in which dogs of a variety of breeds have been



Pedigree chums sit proudly at a dog show: in fact, the study shows that mongrels are more likely to be enjoying life long after some pets

subjected to whole-body scanning with tissue mass and bone mass measured through sophisticated techniques.

Britain's most popular dog, according to registrations with the Kennel Club, is the Labrador which is expected to reach 12. A Great Dane is considered

old at eight and a Jack Russell terrier would not be unusual if it passed its twentieth birthday.

Mr Watson found in his study that about 14 per cent of the dog population is aged ten, as opposed to about 10 per cent in 1965. According to his new

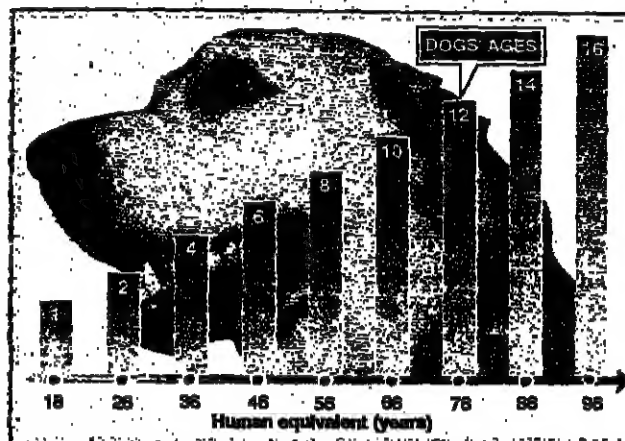
assessment of age, they would be 66 in human terms.

The pet food manufacturers have been quick to cater for the needs of those pensionable pooches. Pedigree Chums has published a booklet, *The Senior Years*, to help owners retain the youthful exuberance

in their dogs. Advice includes massage to aid relaxation and relieve the aches and pains associated with ageing.

The massage programme, devised by the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy, suggests spending up to five minutes on

each set of muscles in the neck, back, shoulders, thighs and lower limbs. It also advises flexing the joints by supporting a limb above and below the joint and moving it slowly and gently through the full range of movement, then moving the whole leg as if cycling.



Microchip plan could banish ref's mistakes

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE most vilified figure in sport, the football referee, might soon be made error-free by the use of a microchip.

Professor Nigel Allinson, would like to create a "robot" by using radio waves and computers to compensate for referees' innate fallibilities. Officials, he suggests, should wear a helmet similar to that of a Tornado fighter pilot so that instant replays of disputed incidents can be flashed on to the video. The Football Association is prepared to agree to a pilot programme.

Professor Allinson, who holds the chair of electronic systems engineering at the University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, is to outline his plans this week in a new BBC Radio 5 series called *The 21st Century and How To Survive It*.

His conclusion will disappoint fans, however. While machines can now beat chess grandmasters, he does not foresee the referee being totally replaced. "It is important that real referees continue to make the decisions," he says.

Professor Allinson's plan will begin modestly by linking the referee's watch to a giant screen in the stadium so that fans can judge how much time is being added for injuries. Should that be approved, football will be spared the regular sight of Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, stalking the touchline with his own stopwatch in hand.

The next step would be for the referee to have a radio microphone so that he can explain decisions to fans. In the longer term, radio waves along the touchlines and between the goalposts could detect whether or not the ball, coated with a metal lining, had crossed the line.

Bosnia officer hits back over desertion charge

By DANIEL MCGRORY

AN OFFICER from the British peacekeeping force in Bosnia is demanding a government investigation into why he is facing court martial for desertion 18 months after he resigned from the Army.

Robert Ryan, 31, was the first officer to order British troops to return fire during the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. He is angry that 15 armed soldiers were sent to arrest him in Bosnia and bring him back to Britain in handcuffs to stand trial.

Mr Ryan, from Biddulph in Staffordshire, describes the Army's behaviour in holding him in a military prison for a week after his arrest three months ago as "ludicrous".

The Army says the former captain with the Cheshire Regiment went absent without leave in 1995 after accepting a £6,500 payment to stay on in the services. Mr Ryan insists that stress forced him to change his mind about extending his army career and that the British Embassy in Sarajevo knew he had left the Forces to set up a business as a travel

guide in the city. He says the money was paid back to the Army. He had handed in his military kit, completed all the formalities and left a forwarding address for his new business in Sarajevo after resigning from his regiment in 1995.

He said: "I object to the word 'desertion'. I have never run away from anything. I don't know why it took 18 months for them to arrest me. Everyone knew where I was. I left an address. As far as I am concerned I left the Army legitimately and this is basically just an administrative dispute over money. It's a case of the left hand not knowing what the right is doing."

The Ministry of Defence said Mr Ryan was a "highly unusual and sensitive case". A spokesman said: "It hinges on whether a soldier can just walk out when he wants."

The issue was whether Mr Ryan should have paid back what the Army calls a "financial retention incentive" to extend his army career before quitting. "He was told after changing his mind he would have to repay the money in full, but on receiving that bit of information he went absent without leave. He made an offer to repay £745 but then just walked out."

The point isn't whether or not we knew where he was. We expect our employees to return and discuss these problems in the proper way. We don't go to them."

Mr Ryan was mentioned in dispatches for his gallantry in ordering his troops to open fire after they were ambushed on patrol in Bosnia. He has refused to accept the Army's offer to pay his salary while he awaits the court martial as he insists he is a civilian.



Ryan was arrested 18 months after leaving

"If every golfer's swing was as reliable as my Rolex, I'd be out of a job."



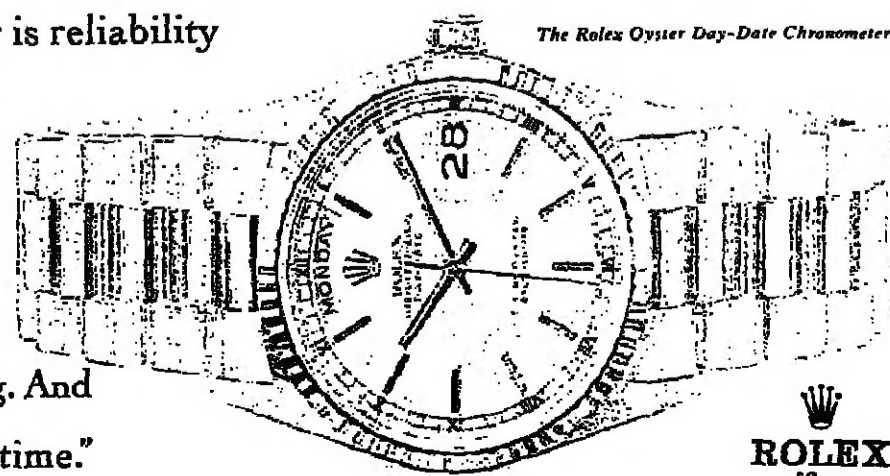
His gift as a communicator and his adaptability make David Leadbetter one of golf's most sought-after teachers.

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Pavarotti says triumphant au revoir to the Garden

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, in tremendous vocal form, said farewell yesterday to the stage on which he first appeared in 1963. Galas apart, it was the tenor's first recital at the Royal Opera House since 1979 — and it was his last before the house closes for rebuilding.

His farewell could have been a sentimental occasion, but the only hint was in his choice of Rodolfo's Act I aria from *Bohème* as the first encore. He took over the role at short notice from an ailing Giuseppe di Stefano 34 years ago. Pavarotti, 62 this year, can still sing most of today's Rodolfos off the stage when it comes to passion, phrasing and volume. In a long tradition, he

chose to warm up with Italian art songs. These he followed with four sacred songs, unbunting his tailcoat for Schubert's *Ave Maria*; the loosening-up process was over.

After Bizet's *Agnus Dei*, it was Tosca. Pavarotti gave both of Cavaradossi's arias, lustrous in tone in front of the portrait of the Madonna in Act I and using that famous head voice to magical effect when under sentence of death in the last act.

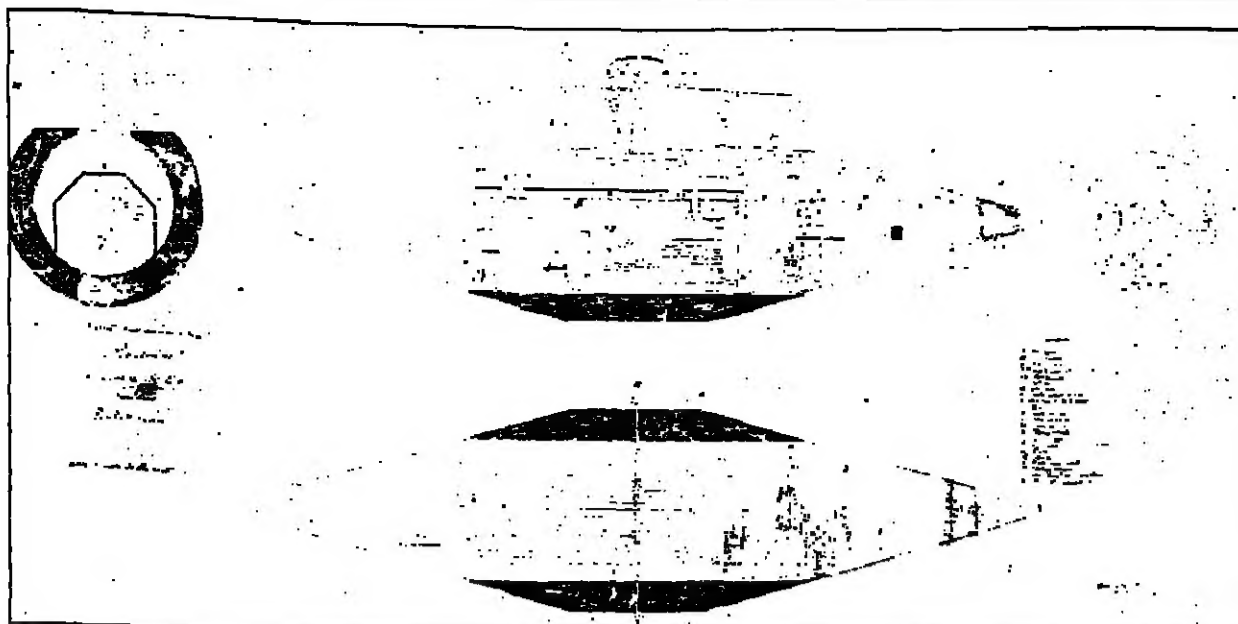
After the break, Tosti ruled. His songs, mainly from the turn of the century, show off the voice well. Tosti settles well in the middle of the voice and more often than not allows the singer a chance for a virtuoso flourish at the end of each song. Pavarotti gave *L'ultima canzone* the full works.

Una furtiva lagrima was a reminder that Donizetti's Nemorino has long been one of Pavarotti's favourite roles and one in which he rarely misses. So to the encores. As well as Rodolfo, the part which probably above all others will always be associated with him, there was *Rigoletto's* Duke of Mantua. He dashed straight from *Questa o quella* into *La donna è mobile* with hardly a break.

On this showing, Pavarotti should be back when the new house reopens in two years.

JOHN HIGGINS

Divers prepare rescue mission for curate's invention of first engine-powered underwater vessel

A plan for the 1879 prototype of the steam-driven *Resurgam*, right. A careless crew was blamed for its sinking

Fishing juggernauts put Victorian sub in peril



Martin Dean

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE world's first engine-powered submarine, which sank off North Wales nearly 120 years ago, may be brought to the surface to save it from being smashed by modern fishing methods. Divers are to see if it is safe to move.

The *Resurgam*, a three-man vessel with a steam engine, was designed by a Manchester curate. Until then submarines had been powered by crews hand-cranking the propeller. The *Resurgam* sank in 1880, three months after it was



built, while being towed to Portsmouth for Royal Navy trials. Although its position is circled to fishing fleets, marine archaeologists fear

that it may be damaged or destroyed by a beam trawler, which drags a huge steel beam along the seabed.

The *Resurgam* was discovered accidentally in the autumn of 1995 by a fisherman who snagged his nets on it five miles north of Rhyl. Enthusiasts had spent years searching for it.

A team of 96 divers led by the Government's Archaeological Diving Unit, based at St Andrews University, will begin an intensive two-week study in June to assess the condition of the 40ft by 8ft iron

frame. Martin Dean, director of the unit, said that if the *Resurgam* were hit by a beam trawler the evidence collected in June would be all that remained of an important piece of nautical history. "This is a unique submarine," he said. "It is under threat where it is at the moment and, in my opinion, it would be sensible to think about moving it to a place of safety. However, the cost of bringing it ashore would be horrendous."

Cadw, the Welsh heritage agency with responsibility for

the wreck, is considering applications from organisations interested in its future. It is understood that the Warship Preservation Trust, headed by Sir Philip Goodheart, has expressed an interest.

The divers will search the seabed around the barnacle-encrusted hull, thought to be sitting upright 55ft below the surface. It is hoped that some of its missing parts, including propeller belts, vents and the conning tower hatch, will be found. The crew is said to have joined the towing ship and to have left the hatch open,

leaving the *Resurgam* to be sunk by a huge wave.

The nine-tonne vessel was designed by the Rev George Garrett of Moss Side. A prototype was built by Cochran's Boilermakers of Birkenhead in 1879 and featured the cleric's invention for air purification, an early form of breathing apparatus called a pneumatophore.

Mr Garrett, who has been called the father of submarines, had claimed that there was enough steam from the coal-fired boiler to power the vessel underwater for up to ten

hours. But the fire had to be extinguished before the vessel submerged to prevent it using up the oxygen.

Submarine technology was advanced by John Holland, an Irish immigrant, whose design for one propelled by an electric motor was accepted by the American Navy in 1898. Mr Garrett went on to design vessels for the Greek and Turkish navies and some were still in use early this century. He became admiral of the Turkish Navy but later moved to the United States, where he died in poverty.



GLASGOW MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT

Ecologists fight to save threatened Ice Age fish

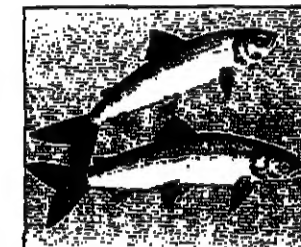
BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

ENGLISH and Scottish ecologists have joined forces in an attempt to save Britain's rarest fish, an Ice Age relic clinging to existence in two Cumbrian lakes.

The herring-like vendace, *Coregonus albus*, is found only in Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite in the Lake District, having disappeared during this century from two small lochs in Scotland, its only other known sites.

Scientists have now introduced thousands of vendace smolts to another Scottish loch in an attempt to establish a "safeguard" stock that would ensure the fish's survival if the Lake District populations were wiped out.

Derwent Water's vendace are in reasonably good health, but those in Bassenthwaite are struggling against pollution and growing numbers of predatory ruffe, used as live bait by anglers, which feed on ven-



At risk: the vendace

dace eggs. The rescue plan for the vendace is a joint venture by Scottish Natural Heritage, the Lake District National Park, the Environment Agency and the Institute of Freshwater Ecology. The fish is one of more than a hundred endangered species of animals and plants in Britain listed for conservation after the Rio summit of 1992.

Last December scientists collected some 100,000 vendace eggs from Bassenthwaite and in April about 30,000 smolts hatched from the eggs were released into Loch

Skeen, northeast of Moffat, in Dumfries and Galloway.

Until last month's reintroduction, vendace had been absent from Scotland for more than 20 years. The fish were still occasionally being caught in Mill Loch, near Lochmaben, west of Lockerbie, in the early 1970s, but none has been seen since then.

Vendace disappeared from Castle Loch, also near Lochmaben, and their only other known home in Scotland, soon after a sewage works was built there in 1911. In the last century, vendace anglers held an annual summer festival there, catching the fish with fine gillnets and then cooking and eating them outdoors.

Ecologists believe vendace recolonised lakes in northern Britain from the sea after the ice-sheets retreated some 10,000 years ago. The fish is still an important commercial species in western Russia and northwestern parts of continental Europe.

Full-time job.
Part-time childhood.

Sangli is only nine but already he talks about his childhood in the past tense. It ended the day he

started work, at just eight years old. Since then, he will tell you, life is a slog every day of the week.

The seven mile walk to find a good patch, the nine hours kneeling in the dust mending shoes, the miserable 30p or so earned.

There is no play. The word doesn't enter his vocabulary. And no education, unless you include the kind you get on the streets, like how to look after yourself when a customer gets rough.

Why does he do it? Because his parents are so poor that they need, really need, his 30p a day to help pay for food and clothes.

If Sangli were the only child in the world working his childhood away it would be one too many. As it is he is one of some 55 million in India alone. Christian Aid works to combat child labour by campaigning for decent adult wages and improving families' living standards so that parents can afford to take their kids off the street.

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Being fat and spotty is a teenager's nightmare

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST children aged 11 to 16 were reported yesterday to worry about their appearance, with concerns topped by overweight, spots and ugly teeth.

According to a poll commissioned by nurses, 86 per cent of the age group — but especially girls and poorer children — fretted about the way they looked. A third thought they were too fat and a quarter worried about their skin or teeth. Almost one in ten was anxious about being underweight.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, which commissioned the MORI poll to mark Nurses Day, said: "Our survey shows the insecurities that children can feel about the way they look, from teenage spots to severe eating disorders because of worries about weight."

Among the 4,295 children polled, those who said they were not well-off were more worried about their appearance than those from better-off families. Among poorer families, 41 per cent were

STUDY GIVES ALCOPOP WARNING

Evidence that "alcopops" are encouraging children to become under-age drinkers has been found in a survey of more than 3,000 pupils in Wales. The study is published as the drinks industry watchdog, the Campaign for Real Ale (CRA), is understood to be seeking powers to encourage boycotts by supermarket and off-licence chains of alcoholic lemonades and colas aimed at young people. The Welsh research, published today, found that

more than a quarter of girls aged 15 and 16 drank no alcohol except for the lemonade and cola-flavoured drinks. That suggested that the sweet flavours enticed children who would otherwise be deterred by the strong tastes of adult drinks, they said. In that age group, 30 per cent of girls and 24 per cent of boys drank alcopops at least weekly. Beer was found to be drunk by 54 per cent of boys and 27 per cent of girls.

anxious about being fat, compared with 33 per cent from wealthier homes. MORI says this suggests that middle-class diets are healthier and that poorer children are either overweight or have relatives who are. Less well-off children were also more conscious of bad skin (31 per cent) and teeth (29 per cent); the corresponding percentages among richer children were 26 and 24. Boys were generally less

concerned about what they looked like, with 21 per cent saying they had no worries, compared with 8 per cent of girls.

Pupils at all-girl schools were generally more worried than average and white children tended to be more anxious than black or other ethnic minority children. Worries changed as children grew older. Only 13 per cent of 11-year-olds worried about their

skin but a year later the proportion rose to 20 per cent. It was 28 per cent for 13-year-olds and 37 per cent for 16-year-olds. Those worried about the shape of their noses doubled from 8 to 16 per cent between 11 and 16 years.

Sandra Rote, the college's community health adviser, said that school nurses increasingly found that children were asking for advice about diet. "Fat, stodgy foods are easier and cheaper for schools to serve," she said. "Packets of crisps keep better than apples, so there is a temptation not to serve things which can go off."

Help was at hand today from a giant walking carrot called Herbie and the start of National School Meals Week. The campaign to encourage more imaginative and healthier menus is organised by Arnold Fewell of the Local Education Catering Association.

He began to urge healthier eating in 1988, when he was North Yorkshire catering officer. Mr Fewell created Herbie (Healthy Eating Really Better in Every Way) and was prompted to lose three of his own 22 stone.

Disney's £10m show opens on a high note

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE most expensive show ever staged in the West End opens tomorrow, with more than £5 million taken in advance bookings.

Beauty and the Beast, a £10 million musical by Walt Disney, has taken three years of planning and is expected to be as successful in Britain as it has been on Broadway, where it has been running since 1994. Julie-Anne Brighton, 25, stars as Belle alongside co-star Alasdair Harvey from *The Phantom of the Opera*, who plays the Beast. Lyrics for five of the songs are by Sir Tim Rice.

The extravaganza, with a cast of 40, a 25-piece orchestra, a backstage crew of 75 and 230 costumes, is Disney's first foray into the West End. It is estimated to be about twice as expensive as any other show staged there. Because of the scale of the production, an extension had to be built at the back of the Dominion Theatre to make room for the wardrobe department.



Beauty and the Beast is the most expensive show ever staged in the West End

Currie's taste may suffer after nose job



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

REPORTS that Edwina Currie has had surgery on her nose have produced a varied crop of news stories and cartoons, mainly unsympathetic. The former Conservative MP's nose job has been discussed as an aesthetic issue, and as a manifestation of vanity. Nobody seems to have listened to Mrs Currie's own explanation: that the surgery was performed mainly for medical reasons.

Mrs Currie may well have very good reasons for having the operation. Apart from having sustained a deflected septum in a minor accident, she also suffers from severe asthma, which is often associated with allergic vasomotor rhinitis, the periodic inflammation and engorgement of the nasal lining which occurs in certain people in response to contact with an allergen, be it pollen, moulds, household dust or Humphrey the cat. Vasomotor rhinitis is the cause of the runny and stuffed-up nose of the hay fever sufferer.

More than 70 per cent of patients with asthma and vasomotor rhinitis will eventually develop nasal polyps. The polyps are teardrop-

shaped benign tumours, which, particularly when infected or inflamed as a result of contact with an allergen, swell and ooze so that they obstruct the nasal passages, causing increased snoring at night and a stuffy, nasal voice by day.

Although benign, they may co-exist with malignancies, so it is best to obtain a specialist opinion from time to time, not only so that the expert may remove an offending polyp, but also so that he or she can check that they are not concealing anything more sinister.

Nasal congestion, and hence the liability to polyps, is made worse if the nasal septum — the grille and bone separating the nostrils — is deflected, causing a unilateral constriction. The nasal passages can be enlarged by a submucosal resection or by septoplasty — nasal septum reconstruction. Rhinoplasty — a complete remodelling of the nose — could be used to produce a more beautiful and functional nose.

After surgery Mrs Currie will be able to breathe better and snore less, and may have a different tone to her voice, but there is often a price to pay. Mrs Currie's judgment of fine food and wine may be affected. The basic tastes — saltiness, bitterness, sweetness and sourness — will still be obvious, but the subtle tastes which are the result of smell and which allow the diner to discriminate between the elusive fragrances given off by carefully constructed sauces and old wines may be lost.

Recent research has shown that even a submucosal resection, the surgical dilatation of the nasal passage, may so interfere with the nerve supply to the nasal mucosa that the chance of becoming a master of wines would be lost for ever.



Currie: she said surgery was for medical reasons

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Ministers order an MoD about-turn on Gulf War syndrome

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

DEFENCE ministers will today order a new investigation into the extent of the official cover-up over "Gulf War syndrome".

The Government is promising "substantial new resources" to discover what experts in the ministry knew about the possible damaging side-effects of vaccinations and drugs given to service personnel as protection against a chemical or biological attack from Iraqi forces.

An action plan will be unveiled by John Reid, Armed Forces Minister. Labour says the matter will be a top priority for the Ministry of Defence. Ministers will urgently consider compensation. An MoD source said: "The message is there will be no more and denials that nobody knew of possible harmful side-effects."

That approach, ministers say, is in stark contrast to Whitehall's original response to deny the existence of any

possible health hazards from the Gulf conflict. "What is most important is research to combat the many harmful side-effects," the source said.

The investigation is likely to embarrass the Opposition when the full extent of how Nicholas Soames, then Armed Forces Minister, was misled over the use of organophosphate pesticides during the war is brought out.

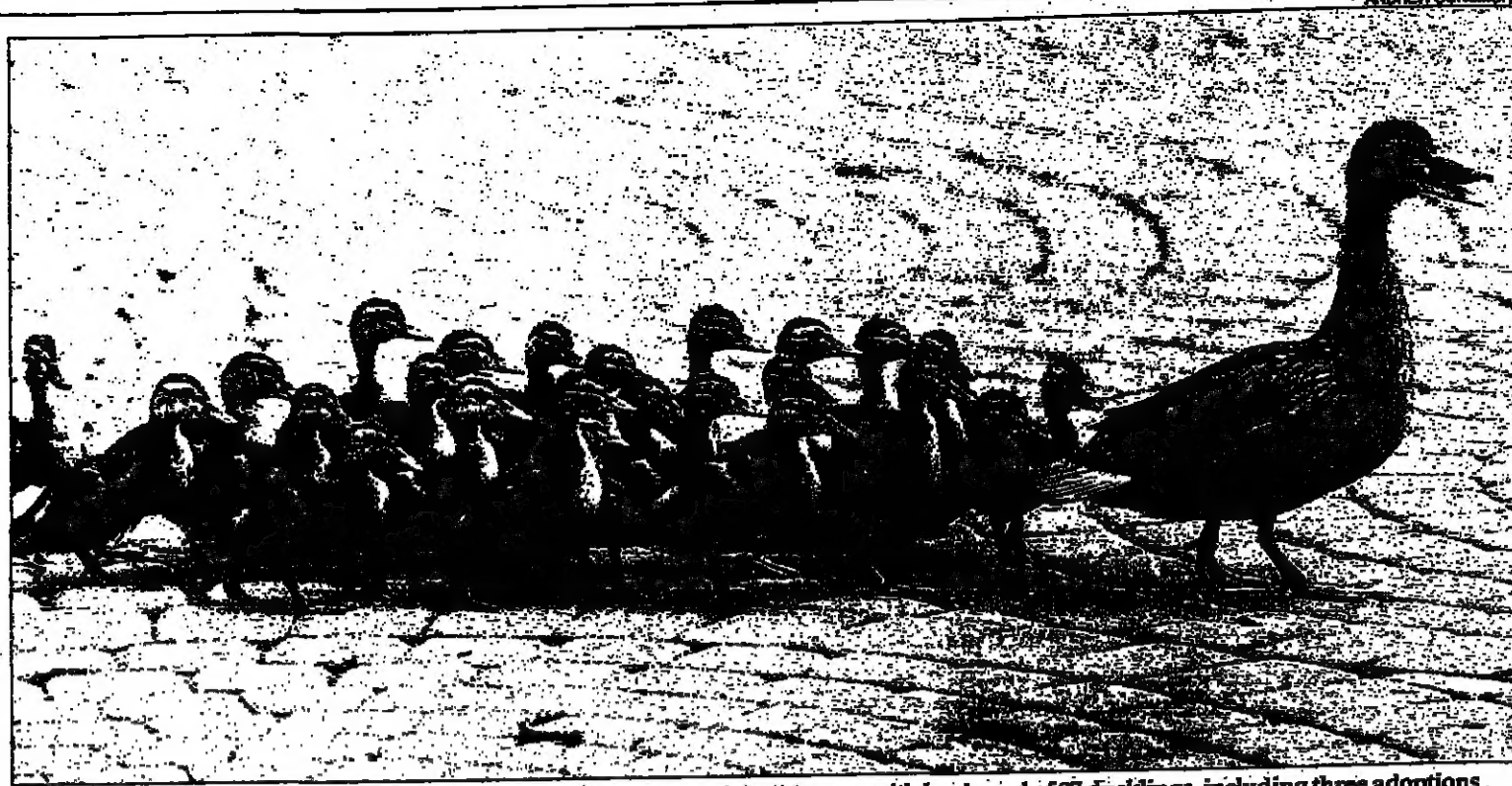
The MoD will also be told to expedite medical examinations of all those veterans complaining of ill health. About a thousand Gulf veterans have so far been examined. Mr Reid will pledge that the findings from the new research will be made public.

A series of research programmes have already been launched to compare the health of thousands of Gulf War veterans with military personnel not involved in the 1991 conflict. Former and serving troops are being enticed to fill in complex questionnaires

to assist the research with the offer of entry into a £1,000 draw. Such incentives might now be increased.

Tony Flint, a spokesman for the Gulf War Veterans and Families' Association, welcomed the move last night. "This is the best bit of news we have heard for four years. We are feeling very hopeful now we are getting the recognition we wanted. Until now the Ministry of Defence and the Government treated us as if we were hypochondriacs," he said. "We hope the new research will continue where the Americans left off."

Richard Barr, a solicitor working to coordinate the investigations, said: "It is wonderful news. It represents a complete about-turn in governmental attitude." In the new spirit of openness, Mr Barr said he hoped the Government might reveal the names of some of the vaccines used to inoculate soldiers going to the Gulf.



From a long family line: Martha delighted staff at the Animal Line sanctuary with her brood of 27 ducklings, including three adoptions

Martha the motherly mallard waddles into record books

ONE by one they trooped into the wildlife sanctuary behind their mother — 24 ducklings in a long, untidy line. But not content with coping with possibly the biggest brood on record, Martha the mallard has adopted three more. Now mother and her family of 27 are the

pride of staff at the Animal Line sanctuary near East Grinstead in West Sussex. The story began when Martha, a former resident of the sanctuary, walked through the gates last week with her day-old ducklings. They were put into an infra-red treatment unit, next door to three

other day-old mallard ducklings which had been abandoned at birth. The orphans' cries were heard by Martha, who broke down the thin dividing wall between and adopted them. Peter Wakeham, the owner of the sanctuary, said yesterday: "It's the biggest brood I have ever known."

How on earth she managed to sit on all those eggs, turning them and keeping them at the right temperature, is beyond me. It must have been like sitting on a pyramid. She is brilliant mother — to her own ducklings and those she has adopted."

Customs 'spy' to join Moscow's crime fighters

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Customs investigator is being sent to Moscow to combat the spread of the Russian mafia into Britain and to curb drug smuggling from the former Soviet Union.

The officer will be the first member of a British law enforcement organisation to work full-time in Russia. He may eventually be joined by other police and Customs officers to form a special cell linking Russian police forces with London.

The Customs man, who is not being named for security reasons, will have the status of a middle-ranking diplomat. He will be based in the Spanish Embassy in Moscow with a small staff. Aged 40, he is a senior investigating officer, currently working in the North-East. He was formerly a drugs liaison officer in Bolivia, working with the police against the cocaine cartels.

He will take up his post in the summer after his working brief has been agreed with the Russians and he has completed a Russian language course. In Moscow he will join a growing band of foreign investigators, including officers from the FBI and the German security organisation, BKA. There are 55 British Customs

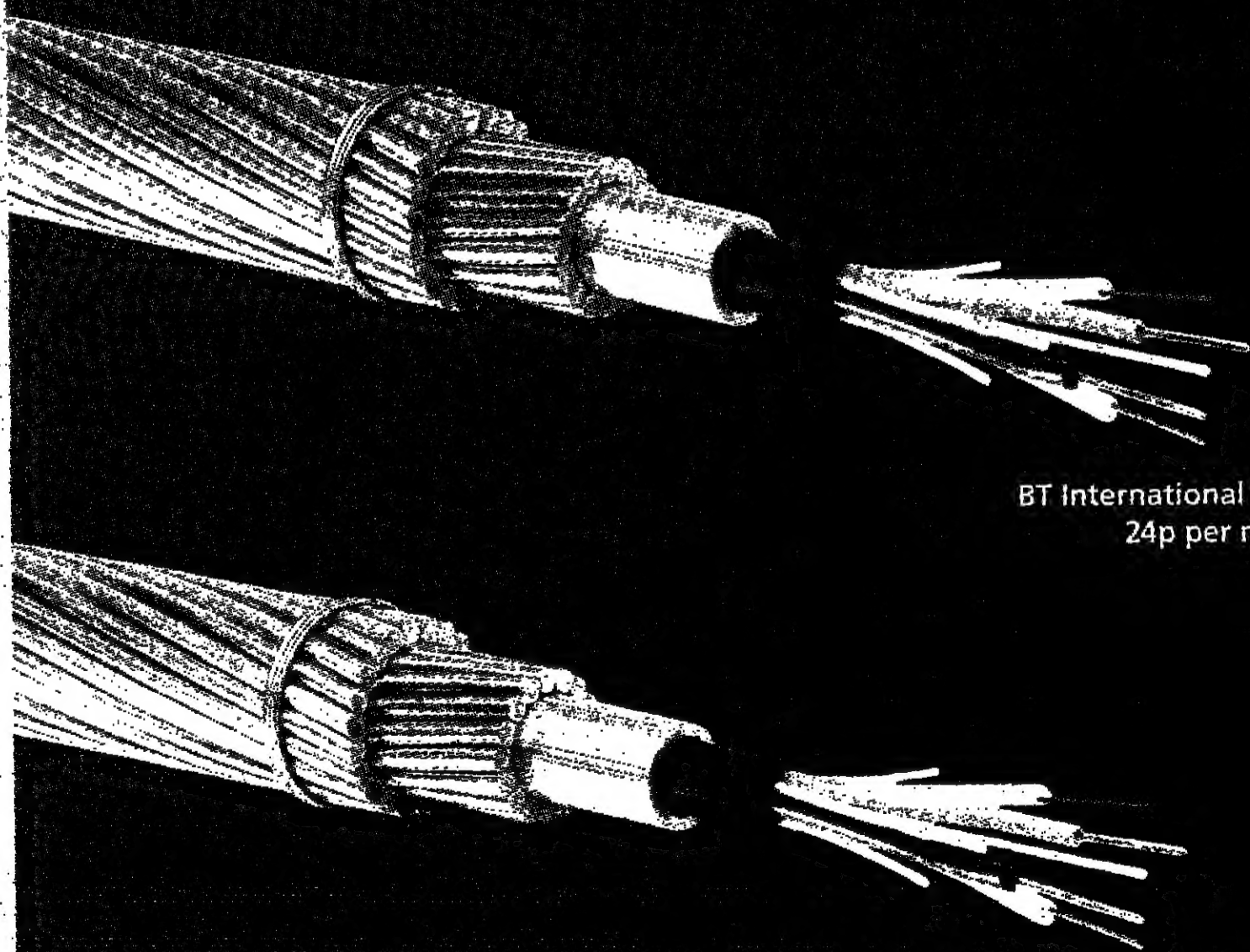
and police officers working in 31 countries on drugs liaison. Another eight Customs officers work on financial operations, including tax fraud. Our man in Moscow will be the first Customs officer to have a much wider brief, specifically including organised crime as well as drug crime and tax fraud.

The Customs officer will build up contacts with Russian investigators and their successors to the KGB. He will also feed intelligence back to London and help to train the Russians to meet Western standards of investigation.

Customs and police say the posting is recognition of the dangers that the expanding Russian underworld poses. A Customs source said: "We see a lot of problems coming out of the old Soviet bloc and we believe this will put us ahead of the game."

The former Soviet Union has become a staging post for moving drugs into western Europe. The Asian states are also emerging as new sources for harvests of the opium poppy and cannabis. Detectives in London have gathered evidence that Russian mob leaders are laundering cash and using Britain to invest their profits.

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Dalya Alberge reports from the Cannes festival, where history has a fondness for repeating itself

Maker of slave film sees double over new Spielberg epic

A YOUNG filmmaker expressed surprise yesterday that Steven Spielberg's latest film bears uncanny similarities to his own. Joel Marsden said that not only were both stories about slave-ship uprisings, but Spielberg was using the same set and the same principal actor.

Marsden's completed film, *Ill Gotten Gains*, is his debut feature and cost £1.5 million to make. Spielberg's *Amistad* has just begun filming on a £24 million budget.

"They are shooting on the same ship we used, a replica ship off the Californian coast in San Diego," said Marsden, 27, who was born to a British father in New York. The lead actor in both films is Djimon Hounsou, a West African who made his name as a model on the catwalks of Paris and Milan.

Marsden devoted three years to researching and writing his film, which features the gravel-voiced Eartha Kitt as a spirit trapped in the planks of the ship, a character inspired by West African folklore. He is in Cannes to screen his film for distributors.

He said: "It's a trend in Hollywood to have similar films and similar topics. They usually don't use the same set and the same star. It is unusual for two films to share such similarities. If they do it, they use different stars and a different city."

At 49, Spielberg is the

world's most successful filmmaker, with *ET*, *Schindler's List* and *Jurassic Park* among his hits. A spokesman said that he had been working on *Amistad* for at least two years: "If he's saying Spielberg pinched the idea, I'd think that's too absurd. Spielberg doesn't have to. He wouldn't even contemplate it. He can afford to buy any ideas."

Spielberg's film tells the true story of a revolt on the Spanish slave ship *Amistad* by a cargo of 53 Africans in 1839. Marsden's script distils 500 years of history, set on one ship. He intends to invite Spielberg to his Los Angeles premiere in August. Ultimately, he said, it was simply important that films about slavery were made. "I wanted to portray the situation on a slave ship and the many uprisings on them which the history books don't talk about much."

Inspired by a visit to Senegal, and a slave house from which millions were deported, his film takes place in 1869, after the abolition of slavery. "Unfortunately, few ships were committed to the cause to end the slave trade," Marsden said.

The enforcement of laws proved difficult, with more than 5,000 miles to patrol. Our film deals with a series of uprisings on an American slave ship and how even Americans and the subjects of other countries continued to make a quick buck out of it."



Cannes laughter: the Spice Girls wore headscarves and dark sunglasses to mimic film stars of the Thirties and Forties

Cinema intellectuals are lost in spice

LEGENDARY stars have been reduced to artistic fury by the intense questioning at Cannes press conferences. Yesterday the Spice Girls showed they were in control by making everyone in the room do a Mexican wave.

They bossed hardened male journalists and film intellectuals, telling them how to conduct themselves. They told one to stop mumbling when addressing them, and another to uncross his arms because it was

"bad body language". When "Baby Spice" Emma was asked a question by a Lebanese journalist, she said: "Oh, we've never been to Lebanon, but I've been to Debenhams."

The group were promoting plans for their first feature film. They flew in to Cannes wearing headscarves and sunglasses, mimicking the stars of the Thirties and Forties. Asked about their film's plot, "Ginger Spice" Geri said: "It is about our tamer and outer struggles." Thousand-

sands of fans had lined the streets for a glimpse of the British group that has broken records with four chart-topping singles in a row. The film, as yet untitled, will be directed by Bob Spiers, who worked on television's *Fawlty Towers* and *Absolutely Fabulous*.

The story of five days in the life of the band will begin filming in London next month for release at the end of the year, with Richard E. Grant as their manager and other

stars in cameo roles. Geri said: "It is a parody of ourselves. It is also a celebration of London in the Nineties."

Asked if she was scared of making a fool of herself by acting, "Scary Spice" Mel B said: "We know we are not perfect but we will give it our best shot. It might be a smash hit but it might not. But at least we did it."

Asked how long they can last in showbusiness, she added: "How long is a piece of string?"

Nicholson story raises questions about the mixing of fact and fiction



Michael Nicholson

A BRITISH film based loosely on the experiences of Michael Nicholson, the ITN reporter who adopted a Bosnian child, has reopened controversy about the portrayal of real events.

Michael Winterbottom's film *Welcome to Sarajevo* depicts a mortar attack on a Sarajevo bread queue in which 16 people were killed and 110 wounded on May 27, 1992. The film intersperses archive footage with fictional material.

Speaking at a press conference launching the film, Winterbottom

was compelled to defend his work against charges of bias by a former war correspondent, Paul Martin. The director insisted that, as archive footage had been used, it was an accurate reflection of what happened.

Mr Martin, who reported for American television and made a documentary called *Children of War*, suggested that the archive film had been used "to add legitimacy to a nice piece of fiction". The news reports had simplified a complex war to make it more digestible for television audiences, therefore dis-

torting what really happened, he felt. "It was far too black and white — how nasty people are firing into defenceless, valiant individuals."

The director said that he could not see how a depiction of people being massacred while queuing for something as innocent as bread could have another side. Winterbottom and the lead actor, Stephen Dillane, drew attention to the copious research that had gone into making the film. Dillane — who plays a character based on Mr Nicholson — spoke of his surprise that the

journalists who went to Bosnia had not read about the region's history before going.

David Aukin, of Channel 4 Films, one of the co-funders, said that Mr Nicholson had seen and "loved" the film. One of the actors, Goran Visnjic, who had fought in the Croatian army, called the film "very realistic and very powerful".

The film opens in Britain at the end of this year and centres on a character called Michael Henderson, a British television correspondent. Discovering that an

orphanage on the frontline is being bombed by artillery fire, he campaigns for the children's safety. Frustrated by the lack of response, he feels compelled to take action, smuggling a child home.

Mr Winterbottom, whose previous films include *Jude* with Kate Winslet, said he was not seeking to offer any political solutions, nor to criticise individuals in the West. Apart from reflecting the horrors of war, he said the film explored the dilemma for journalists of whether to report events or to campaign for

change. Above all, he wanted people to think about the war in Bosnia: "Even if people spend an hour and a half thinking about Sarajevo, then it's been useful."

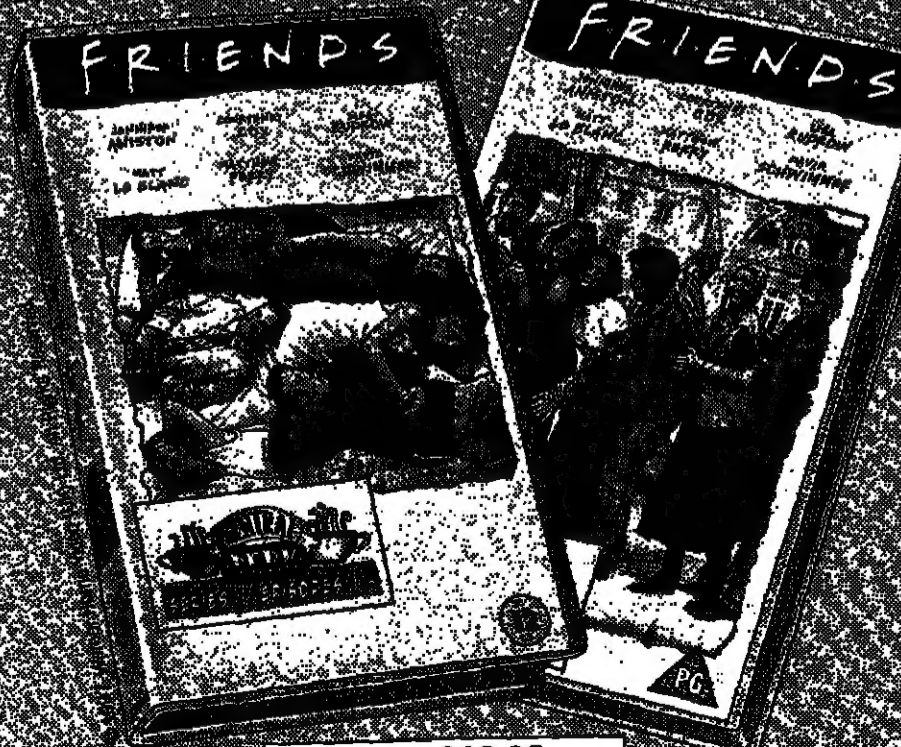
The writer, Frank Correll Boyce, described it as "an act of mourning rather than analysis".

Mr Nicholson is currently on assignment in Jerusalem. His adopted daughter, Natasha, now 14, was at school in Surrey yesterday. Mr Nicholson said: "She is deliriously happy and so are we. Her ambition is to be a tennis coach."

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Blunkett will force councils to close inadequate schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Government will force local authorities to shut failing schools that are showing no signs of improvement, following an emergency review over the weekend of the 281 which are now subject to special measures.

In his first full interview as Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett said he would not wait for legislation before tackling the worst schools. "I want to create momentum. Rather than the hand-wringing we saw from the last Government, we must have positive action."

Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards, spent the weekend drawing up a "hit list" of schools requiring attention. He will announce on Thursday how many schools have been found wanting, and they will be identified next week after their local authorities have been informed.

With action planned in the next few weeks against local authorities who are underperforming, councils will have little choice but to accept the Government's recommendations. For some schools, this will mean closure and subsequent reopening under Labour's "Fresh Start" proposals.

The measures to be outlined next month in a White Paper will enable ministers to demand that failing schools are given new leadership and a



Blunkett: to tackle worst schools at an early stage

different name. But Mr Blunkett said: "We cannot delay because for every year that passes, the school is failing its pupils and opportunities for youngsters in that age group disappear."

More than 40 schools have spent at least two years under the special measures applied to those found by inspectors to be failing. Although the weekend review suggested that some were now improving, others have had a series of reports indicating only limited progress without being taken over by an education association. Only Hackney Downs

School, in East London, has suffered such a fate, closing within months of its takeover. Although other failing schools have been closed by their local authority or merged with a neighbour, invariably the action has been prompted by falling pupil numbers.

Mr Byers said yesterday: "I am shocked that the previous Government was prepared to wait for more than two years and still not take action in relation to failing schools which were not significantly raising standards. This will change. We will intervene at an early stage."

Only a handful of schools are likely to face immediate closure, but ministers are expected to demand changes of leadership or temporary supervision in at least 20 more. Those subject to the Fresh Start procedures would acquire a new identity in time for the next school year.

Ministers are planning Congressional-style hearings on the Education Bill, which will form the centrepiece of Wednesday's Queen's Speech, as the first stage of a commitment to opening up the Parliamentary process.

Mr Blunkett told *The Times* that the hearings would put into action little-used procedures to introduce a fresh style of consultation. Expert witnesses would guide MPs on legislation to ensure that new measures were workable.

He said: "Having served on numerous Bills, I know how cut off they are from the world that is carrying on its business in the normal way. I think Parliament would gain a great deal more esteem from listening to people who have got a contribution to make."

The new approach will begin this week when Mr Blunkett addresses all 4,000 civil servants in his department in Westminster Central Hall. "Many of them will never have seen previous Secretaries of State. I want to offer them a new beginning to harness their talents."

State and independent schools will receive a similar appeal today in a letter from Mr Blunkett.



Head start: Claire Ward at the hairdresser's in her constituency. Her next task is to find a home

Victor is missing a share of the spoils

By DANNY MCGORRY

CLAIRE WARD, Labour's youngest woman MP ever, still has no office in the Commons, no telephone and nowhere to live in her constituency. "Apart from that everything is fabulous," she said. "I'm wandering around with all my worldly goods in a couple of carrier bags."

Miss Ward, who was 25 last Friday as she was sworn in as MP for Watford, is among the Labour newcomers honest enough to admit they never expected to be elected.

She had expected to spend the weekend continuing her studies to be a solicitor. But yesterday she was roaming an empty House of Commons searching for somewhere to put her papers.

"A friend who has been promoted in the new Government said I could use their office and this is a good time when nobody else is around to try to find your way around this maze."

Later she was back visiting estate agents in Watford trying to find somewhere to live. That apart, her only indulgence has been a visit to the hairdresser's.

Smith signals changes at the top of BBC

Carol Midgley hears the Heritage Secretary voice doubts over John Birt's reforms

THE Heritage Secretary yesterday pledged to review the structure of the BBC. Chris Smith likened it to the "internal market of the National Health Service".

Mr Smith, expressing concern over the efficiency of the corporation, said he would be meeting John Birt, the Director-General, and the board of governors in the next few weeks. He said that while the much criticised reforms introduced by Mr Birt last summer had been intended to introduce competition within the BBC and increase efficiency, he worried they may have had the opposite effect. Mr Smith also stressed that the Government wished to enhance the BBC's public service role, not to see it "disintegrated".

Speaking on *Mediumwave* on Radio 4, Mr Smith said he was concerned about the BBC's new managerial structure. "It mirrors quite closely what happened with the internal market of the NHS. It is a quasi-market, not a real market, which is supposed to inject competition into the system to make it more efficient. But my worry is whether it has actually made it less efficient."

He added: "I think one of the things we need to do is see whether the BBC is fulfilling its public service role, whether it is doing it efficiently, whether the licence fee payer is getting good value for money... and whether the role of the board of governors is a good one. They are both the regulator of what the BBC does and also ultimately the managers, and that dual role is also something I want to look at."

Mr Smith hinted that he may wish to appoint new members to the board

and would consider all positions, including the chairmanship of the BBC, currently filled by Sir Christopher Bland. He said: "I will be wanting to meet with them and talk with them and form my own judgment about the direction in which they are currently wanting to take the BBC."

Mr Smith said that he fully supported the view put forward by Michael Jackson, the new Channel 4 chief executive, that the channel should concentrate less on foreign imports and more on British-based programmes and film making.

He said the Government had no intention of privatising Channel 4, adding: "One thing I am absolutely determined is that C4 should retain its remit to do things differently that cater for minority audiences."

He also promised to look into the

role of satellite television buying up the rights to major sporting events. "My aim is ensure that ordinary viewers and listeners should have good access to sporting events. They shouldn't have to buy a satellite dish or to subscribe to a satellite channel in order to have access to sport. There are many people in this country who cannot afford to do that."

The BBC put out a statement which said: "The BBC would look forward to having discussions with Mr Smith. We are always open to scrutiny but the most rigorous and independent audit carried out before the recent licence fee renewal gave the BBC a clean bill of health, confirmed significant improvements in efficiency and showed that it provides excellent value for money."

Letters, page 21

Expert help for MPs is an 'old Labour' idea

ONLY eight pieces of legislation in 16 years have been subjected to the outside scrutiny that David Blunkett plans for the education Bill.

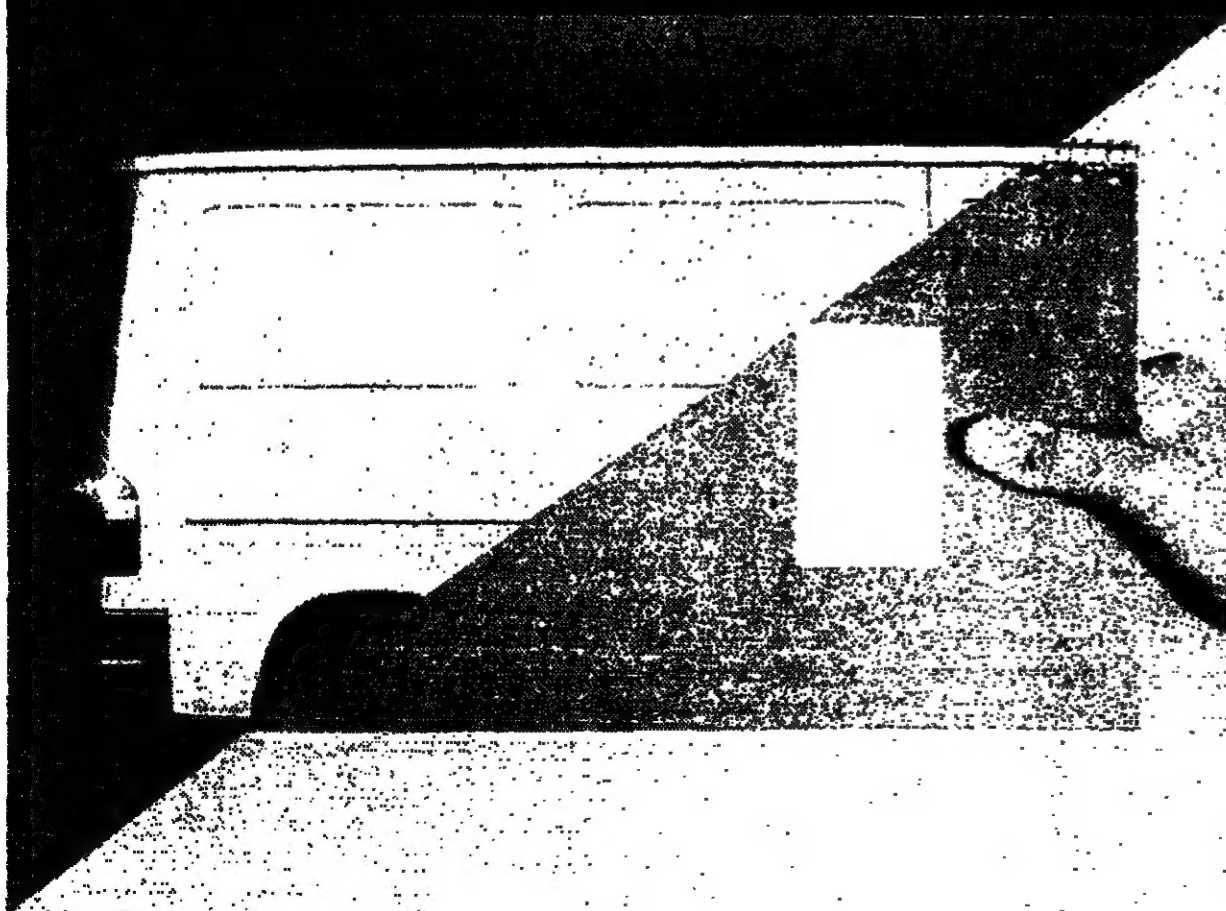
First proposed by George Cunningham, then a Labour MP, in the early 1970s, special standing committees were introduced in 1981 to give Parliament direct access to independent experts.

Mr Blunkett admitted that the new administration's heavy legislative programme would be the biggest obstacle to using the system, although

he was prepared to countenance amendments to his proposals.

Vernon Bogdanor, the Oxford authority on constitutional matters, said yesterday: "It would be useful to have more witnesses to advise MPs. The arrangement is more like the system in the European Parliament, which combines select and standing committees." Professor Bogdanor was on the Haasard Society commission which, in 1993, recommended greater use of the special committees.

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Convicted bomber in Sinn Fein office bid

BY NICHOLAS WATTS
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SINN FEIN has appointed a convicted IRA bomber to set up offices at the House of Commons for the party's two MPs.

Siobhan O'Hanlon, who has served a jail term for explosives offences, opened discussions with officials at the Commons after Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness won Belfast West and Mid Ulster respectively at the general election. On Saturday *The Times* disclosed that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness want to exploit every facility at Westminster, short of taking their seats, in a softening of the party's traditional abstentionist policy.

Last week Ms O'Hanlon, a leading member of Sinn Fein, wrote to the Commons accountant setting out the party's demands that the MPs have offices and use of the Commons library and postal service. Mr Adams has called Sinn Fein's policy "active abstentionism" because he and Mr McGuinness will still refuse to take the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

Sinn Fein is likely to experience difficulties with its plans because the Liberal Democrats, who are in charge of allocating offices to the smaller parties, said that they would not make any effort to help. The Government has dismissed the plans as "playing games with democracy". Conservative MPs are determined to prevent the move.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said yesterday that he would consult other parties and would be "very surprised if something isn't done about this".

More than 1,000 mourners attended the funeral of a Roman Catholic man who was killed in Portadown two weeks ago. Five men were remanded in custody yesterday at Lurgan, Co Armagh, charged with murdering Robert Hamill. A sixth man was charged later.

Leading article, page 20



Squadron Leaders Cedric Hughes, left, Tony Cowan, centre, and Bill Purchase will fly up to 500 miles a day in the two RAF Chipmunks, shown practising yesterday

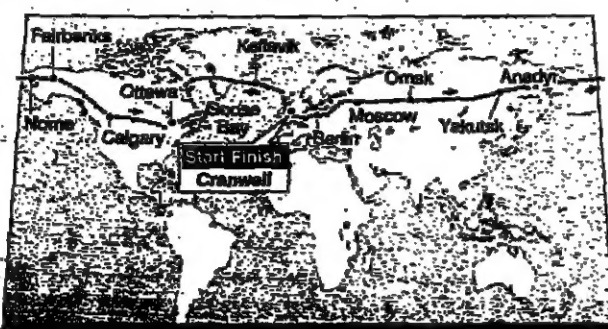
Chipmunks to cross Siberia in quest for new air route

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ONLY seven years ago the flight of two RAF aircraft flying over Moscow would have heralded the start of a third world war. Now three RAF pilots are to take part in the first military expeditionary flight across the former Soviet Union at the invitation of the Russian Air Force.

The goodwill mission, codenamed Exercise Northern Venture, is the first such flight by any foreign air force since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1991. One of its aims will be to establish an air route across Russia for business and private aircraft.

Squadron Leaders Tony Cowan, 51, Cedric Hughes, 60, and Bill Purchase, 56, have permission to fly over Russia and land in remote regions east of the Ural Mountains in two single-seat Chipmunk turbo-prop aircraft. It is hoped that a navigator from the Russian Air Force will fly with them to assist in landing at 15 airfields within the country.



The flight, supported by an Islander aircraft carrying the third pilot with extra fuel and supplies, will be part of a six-week trip around the world. It is due to begin from London City Airport on May 20.

Squadron Leader Cowan, who will lead the expedition, said that some of the airfields east of the Urals were so remote that it was unclear what the facilities would be like. However, the Chipmunk, which was the trainer aircraft for the RAF, Royal Navy and Army for 50 years until it ended its service in March this year, can fly on four-star

petrol as well as aviation gasoline.

Squadron Leader Cowan, who is currently attached to RAF Cranwell, the training establishment, said: "One of the unknowns for Westerners is flying in Russia. It was closed to us from 1918 until the Berlin Wall came down. The scale of the country — 5,000 miles across, with ten time zones — will be difficult to grasp."

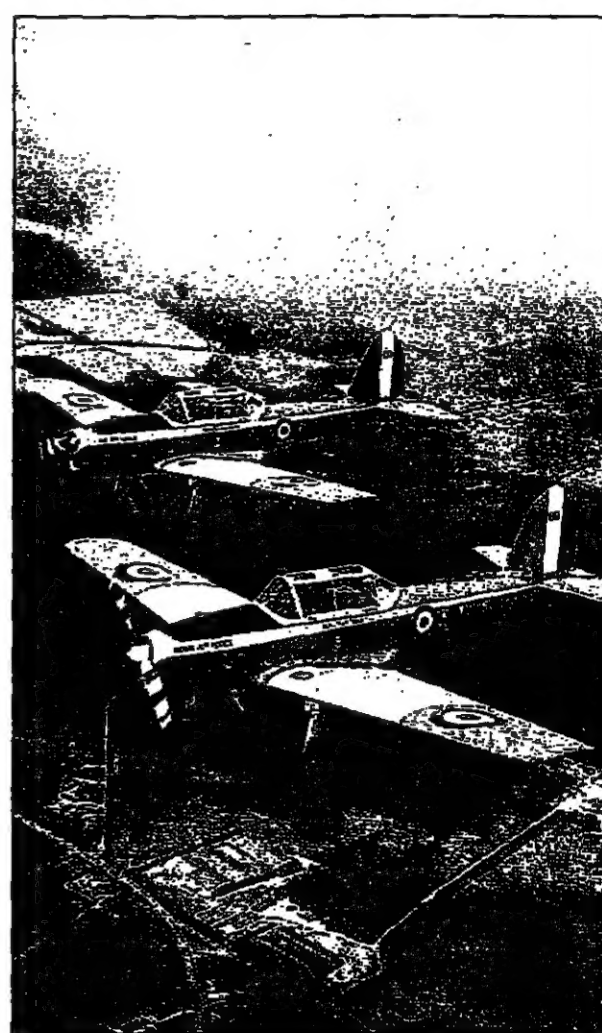
From Moscow, the two modified de Havilland Chipmunks, bearing RAF markings, will head east, following the line of the Trans-Siberian

railway, towards the Bering Strait, a distance of more than 4,000 miles. East of the Urals, the expeditionary flight will cross Siberia; a similar trip planned last year had to be abandoned because of forest fires there.

The Chipmunks have been equipped with satellite-linked navigation equipment and all three men have been trained in survival skills because much of the land east of the Urals is swamp.

Squadron Leader Cowan hopes to fly the 145-horsepower Chipmunks up to 500 miles a day, cruising at about 100 knots at an altitude of 5,000ft. The round trip will be about 14,000 miles with 45 stops and has been divided into four sections: European, Russian, North American and North Atlantic. The trip is costing about £75,000, which is being met by sponsors including British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC.

The Times will follow the progress of Exercise Northern Venture in further reports.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Stars raise cash for soccer fight

More than £500,000 is expected to have been raised from a pop concert held on Saturday to fund legal action on behalf of the 96 people crushed to death at Hillsborough football ground. Entertainers who waived their fees before an audience of 34,000 at Liverpool's Anfield ground included the Manic Street Preachers and the comedian Frank Skinner. Victims' families are campaigning for fresh inquests. They blame police error for the 1989 disaster.

Death in fire

A woman died after a fire swept through her home in Tamworth, Staffordshire. All four daughters of Deborah Simons, 39, who was divorced, were out at the time. Firefighters pulled her out of a bedroom and tried to resuscitate her but she was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

'Spy' inquest

An inquest opens today into the deaths in 1992 in California of Ian Spira, who said that he worked for the intelligence services, and his family. Evidence about the deaths of Mr Spira, 46, and his wife and three children will be disclosed to the West Cumbria Coroner at Whitehaven.

Killer recaptured

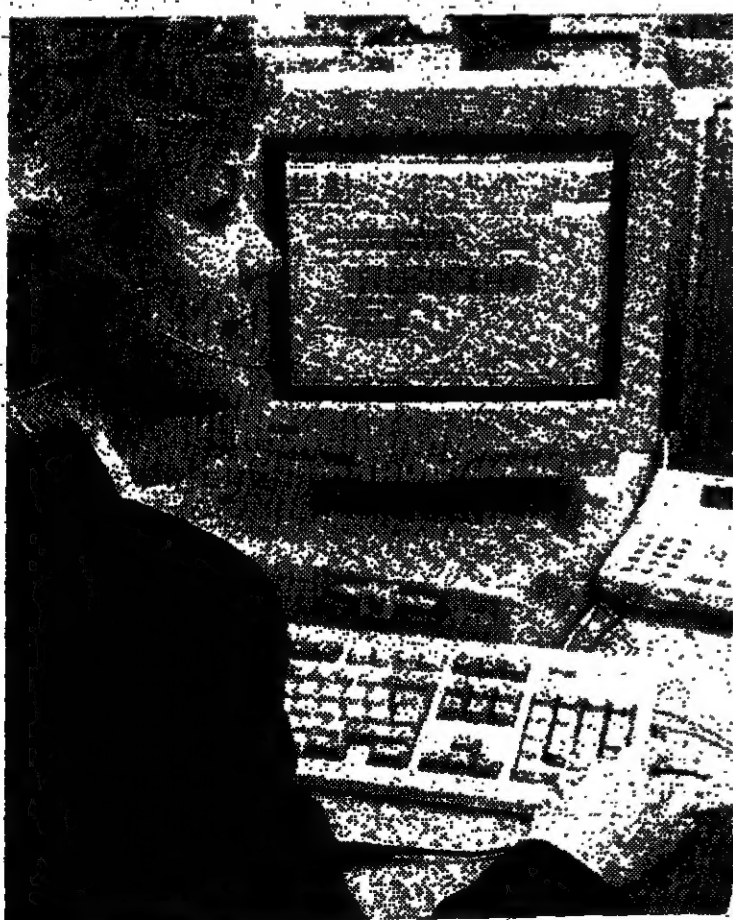
A murderer who escaped from Wellingborough jail, in Northamptonshire, last month was recaptured as he returned to the area where he killed his grandmother in 1984. Frank Watson-Smith was stopped in St Albans after a chase involving police cars and a helicopter.

Cheese with love

A Hebridean cheese, which was banned in Italy in the late 1960s because it was said to be aphrodisiac qualities, is to be produced again. The creamery on Islay, which was closed last year, is to be reopened in July or August and will once more make Dunlop cheese.

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- No income details required on loans up to 75% of property value

- No Arrangement Fee
- No Mortgage Indemnity
- Valuation Fee refunded when funds sent to Solicitors
- No redemption penalty
- Capital raise up to £50,000
- Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required

Free re-mortgage package available.

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- No redemption penalty
- Higher Loan to Value Access Fee added to loan
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UN sharpens its axe in shake-up for 21st century

THE United Nations is preparing a radical restructuring of its humanitarian and development functions as part of a sweeping reform plan intended to ready the organisation for the next century.

Officials say that plans are being made to consolidate disparate UN agencies and departments in a move that threatens some of the largest fiefdoms of the organisation's system. The UN Development Programme, the UN Fund for Population Activities, the UN Children's Fund and the three economic departments of the UN Secretariat are to be brought together in what has been tentatively titled the Development Operations Group or "Dog".

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs at UN headquarters in New York, which was created at Britain's

The biggest fiefdoms of the United Nations are under threat from a move to merge its scattered agencies, James Bone writes from New York

insistence after the exodus of the Iraqi Kurds and the floods in Bangladesh in 1991, will be wrapped into the Geneva-based UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, is under pressure to revamp the organisation to win back the whole-hearted support of the United States, which owes more than \$1 billion (£620 million) in dues to the world body.

The UN chief has promised to unveil his blueprint for reform in July and has appointed Maurice

Strong, a Canadian businessman and UN expert, to prepare the report. The first details of the planned restructuring began to seep out at UN headquarters, as agency heads and other senior officials gathered in New York last week to discuss the changes.

Questions still remain, however, about the place of the World Food Programme, whose work is three quarters humanitarian relief and one quarter development. Also uncertain is how the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation will fit into

the new structure. The Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations at UN headquarters are expected to remain separate, although they will work more closely together. The cumbersome Department of Public Information has already been renamed the Office for Communications and Media Services and a committee set up to reorient its work.

Mr Annan has pledged to cut 1,000 posts by attrition from the 10,000-strong bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat by the end of the century, saving tens of millions of dollars a year. But there is growing concern about the ageing of the UN staff, which has been caused by a long-running hiring freeze. The average age of the permanent UN staff is now 48 and about half are due to

retire over the next ten years. Only 5 per cent of staff in the UN Secretariat are under 35.

Germany, meanwhile, is pushing for the creation of a new World Environment Organisation and is offering office space in Bonn which is to be vacated when the German Government moves to Berlin. The proposed body would take over from the troubled UN Environment Programme, which is based in Nairobi, and the Commission for Sustainable Development created after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is expected to make his country's pitch for the new organisation at an environmental summit scheduled to take place at UN headquarters at the end of next month.

Rescuers in Iran race to reach areas hit by quake

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNATIONAL relief operation was gathering momentum last night to help Iran to cope with the aftermath of an earthquake that devastated a remote, mountainous area in the east of the country, killing at least 2,400 people and injuring thousands more. Aid workers expected the toll to rise when rescue workers reached areas cut off by landslides and piles of rubble. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appealed in Geneva for about £5 million to assist 60,000 survivors for the next four months in the area bordering Afghanistan.

Iranian television showed mass destruction in the stricken zone, with dazed children and weeping infants wander-

ing aimlessly through shattered streets lined with bodies covered in sheets. Some of the victims were crushed to death, others buried alive under the rubble of mudbrick houses. Villagers tore at the rubble with spades and even with bare hands to free trapped victims.

Hospital wards overflowed with victims, with doctors treating many in corridors. Most of the victims were women and children who were either at home or in school when the earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, struck on Saturday shortly after midday, a time when many men were out working in the fields.

Despite the impressive efforts of its own experienced disaster relief teams, Tehran lost little time in brushing aside its political differences with the West to appeal for help when the scale of the tragedy made clear it could not cope alone.

Two previous quakes this year had already depleted emergency resources. France was the first to help, dispatching a plane loaded with emergency supplies. Washington was expected to offer aid



Emergency relief teams search wreckage yesterday in an Iranian village flattened by Saturday's earthquake.

through international organisations. Germany, ignoring a recent diplomatic row with Tehran over accusations that the Iranian leadership ordered the murder of dissidents in Berlin, said it was prepared to send emergency aid.

Kuwait made a similar announcement and the Saudi-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference appealed to its 52 member states to extend all forms of urgent humanitarian assistance. A British humanitarian org-

anisation, International Rescue Corps, was last night refused visas by the Iranian Embassy in London to visit the quake site.

Hamid Reza Ghaffarzadeh, a UN Development Programme official who played a similar role in last year's earthquake in Iran, left his office in Tehran to link up with staff from the World Food Programme and UN High Commissioner for Refugees based in Mashhad before travelling onward.

"The area is completely cut off," said Ilfkar Ali, a UN spokesman in Tehran. "The communications are down. No one has been able to contact us. There is a great distance to be covered. The flights are only up to Mashhad and there is a seven-hour trip beyond that."

Tens of thousands were left homeless by the quake, whose impact centred on an arid, rural area around the town of Qayen in Khorasan province, 90 miles west of the Afghan border. The Iranian Red Crescent said about 200 villages

had been severely damaged or flattened across a 60-mile swath of territory between the towns of Qayen and Birjand, with 10,000 homes destroyed. Water supplies and power lines were also cut.

Qayen's Governor said his region needed doctors, blood, ambulances, food, heavy earth-moving equipment and devices to locate possible survivors.

□ Kabul: The quake toppled a hospital wall in the western Afghan city of Herat, crushing five people to death. (Reuters)

Frantic villagers battle to save lives

FROM STEVEN SWINDELLS IN QAYEN, IRAN

THE wailing and sobbing of grieving relatives echoed through several Iranian villages yesterday as they watched the mangled bodies of family members being pulled from the rubble caused by the country's huge earthquake.

The villagers were still dazed a day after the quake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, hit eastern Iran. During a six-hour tour of this area close to Afghanistan, I did not see any survivors brought out from the rubble in three villages where cranes were lifting heavy debris.

"I have lost my daughter," screamed one woman in her fifties, raising her arms in despair as she roamed the dusty, rubble-strewn streets of Hadjiabad. Her daughter had been engaged to be married, relatives said.

In the nearby village of Abiz, a man in his late forties stood next to the bodies of his sons, aged four and eight, wrapped in shrouds with only their battered faces showing. The bodies were laid on what used to be the front door of their home. "I was away from the house working. My children were alone," he cried.

A despondent seven-year-old boy watched as relatives took his mother's body from their flattened home. A rescue worker, trying to comfort him, gave him biscuits. The boy was too stunned to react. "There aren't enough women left to clean the dead women," said one cleric, referring to the Islamic rite that precedes the burial ceremony. He said women from nearby areas were being brought in to perform the ritual.

Hossein Madaar, 20, stood atop his flattened brick house in Esbidan, 30 miles southeast of Qayen, crying over the loss of his 10-year-old sister and 16-year-old brother. His clothes were covered in dust.

People in Qayen said about 100 houses and other buildings were damaged in the town, but there were no signs of major damage. (Reuters)

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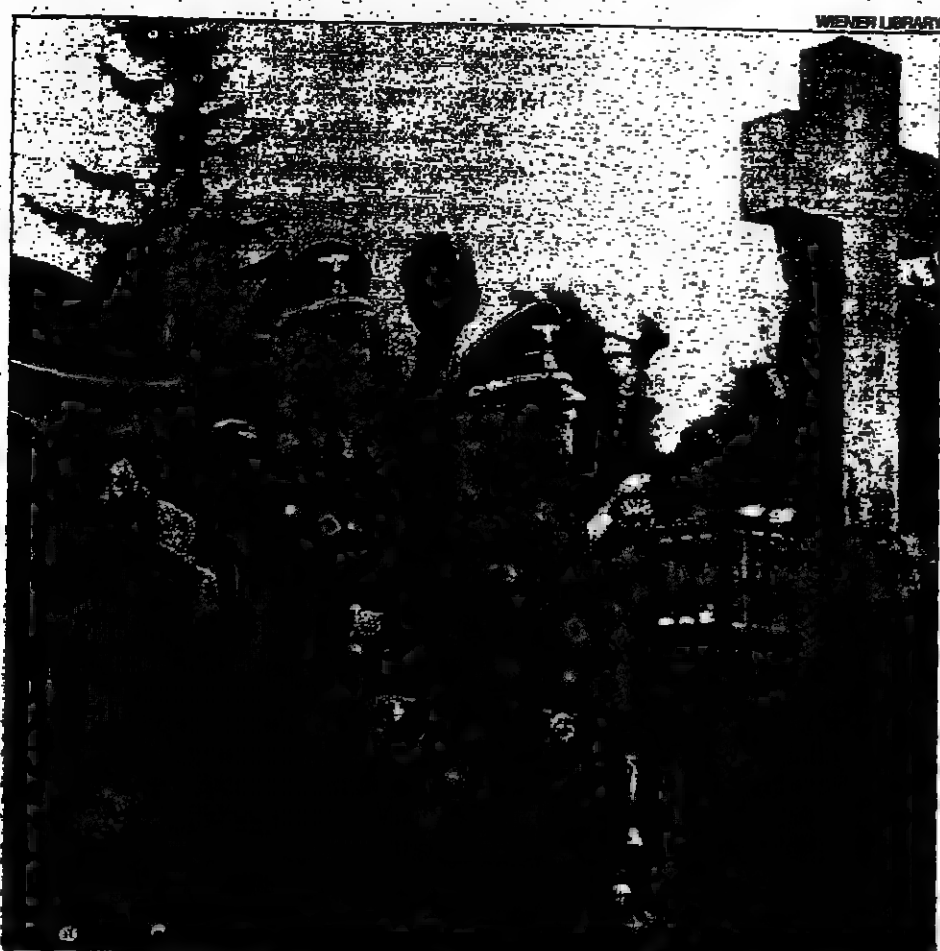
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Gold from Holocaust victims 'laundered right up to the closing stages of war'



Himmler, head of the SS, dealt directly with the secret numbered account

Swiss bank official had direct contact with Himmler's office

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE SS maintained a secret numbered account in a leading Swiss bank to launder money obtained from gold and jewellery plundered from concentration camp victims, and even received credit facilities, a Swiss newspaper reported yesterday.

The *SonntagsZeitung* said former East German documents held in the German Federal Archive showed that Credit Suisse, now Switzerland's second largest bank, dealt directly with the SS through two parallel operations. The archives show that some transactions took place in the final stages of the Second World War, when the role of Hitler's elite unit in carrying out the genocide of millions of Jews, Gypsies and opponents was more widely known. It also claimed that the bank knew who it was dealing with.

In one operation, Deutsche Wirtschaftsbetriebe (DWB), a front company set up by the SS, received credit facilities from Credit Suisse. DWB organised the revaluation of the belongings of Holocaust victims, including gold teeth and other valuables, through the German central bank. One document shows that DWB

received a payment of SwFr50,000 from Credit Suisse to its account at the Deutsche Bank in Berlin on February 14, 1945, not long before the end of the war. The payment was listed as the reimbursement of a cash advance account.

The newspaper also revealed that the SS held a secret account at Credit Suisse, identified by a number, 54 941. Power of attorney was held by Leo Volk, a senior SS officer who handled financial affairs in Hitler's elite unit.

The *SonntagsZeitung* named a bank employee who sometimes had direct contact with the office of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, to deal with the secret account.

When the Allies sought to freeze Nazi assets, the SS tried to conceal the ownership of the account in 1945 by transferring the power of attorney to Alfred Kurzweyer, a director of Deutsche Bank who also held a Swiss passport. He is known to have made frequent trips to Switzerland during the Second World War.

Credit Suisse was unavailable for comment last night. But in a first reaction to *SonntagsZeitung*, the bank



said the affair was regrettable and it would add the new evidence to internal investigations. Swiss politicians reacted with shock to the news, which establishes that a Swiss bank knowingly dealt with Nazi commanders rather than merely with individuals subsequently linked to the SS. In February, Credit Suisse paid about SwFr33 million (£13.5 million) to a humanitarian fund to compensate Holocaust victims. The head of the fund gave a warning this weekend that first payments, due this summer, were likely to be delayed because of disagreements over the management board.

The newspaper's report puts further pressure on Swiss bankers, who have been obliged since last year to search through their accounts for millions of dollars of unclaimed assets belonging to Holocaust victims or their heirs, alleged to be hidden since the war.

So far, most of the evidence of financial dealings with the Nazis have been based on Allied intelligence reports held in American archives or on Swiss material. But the latest revelations give an indication of how much more evidence may be provided by the archives of other European countries, including Germany, which have not received the same close scrutiny.

A preliminary report by the United States Government on the Nazi gold transactions last week underlined the way that the Swiss National Bank and other neutral countries bought bullion from the Germans during the Second World War. The Eizenstat report accused them of helping to finance Nazi Germany's war effort and apparently prolonging the length of the war. But it contained few references to the role of private banks.

Pretoria launches attack on wave of 'Afro-pessimism'

THE South African Government has brought out a pamphlet reviewing the Government's achievements at mid-term — six months late.

Questions have been raised about the use of public money to print and distribute the flagrantly self-praising pamphlet. The document is part of a government strategy to deal with "Afro-pessimism", a mood which operates partly both abroad and among South Africa's whites.

In the eyes of Afro-pessimists, the whole Continent is doomed to an interminable cycle of corruption, authoritarianism, famine and war. South Africa's African National Congress-led Government has run hard into this mood as it struggles to encourage its own business community and international investors. Without their confidence, it cannot hope to secure the economic growth it needs to overcome the mountainous unemployment which lies at the root of most of the country's problems. But more fundamentally still, South Africa is now feeling, and asserting, its continental leadership.

This position is no longer really contested: the other large African countries — Sudan, Algeria, Zaire and Nigeria — are all at war or in chaos and none can begin to compete either with South Africa's economic strength or the positive international image President Mandela has given his country.

As continental leaders, South Africa's elite sees Afro-pessimism and the assumptions that surround it as an affront to their self-respect and virtually a suggestion that things would have been better if the continent had stayed under white-minority rule. They want to assert that Africans can govern them-

South Africa is seeking to boost the morale of its white community, writes R.W. Johnson from Johannesburg

themselves democratically and well, that they are not innately backward or violent, and that their economies can grow.

This is why Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, has been giving speeches in America in which he talks of "an African Renaissance" and it is also the reason why he has worked so closely with the United States in trying to bring a solution to the problems of Zaire. It is not just that Mr Mbeki wants to show Washington that South Africa can be a reliable ally, but he also fears that, should Zaire explode into further and chaos, it would confirm Afro-pessimists in their views, making all that South Africa wants to achieve more difficult.

There is, however, a problem. Crime remains high and in recent weeks, despite official attempts to show that crime is falling, public morale about the problem has sunk to new depths, particularly in Johannesburg. Much of the crime is violent and continues to produce waves of white emigrants either to other parts of the country or abroad.

It is difficult to see how the Government can maintain local investment confidence unless it gets on top of the crime wave. The confidence of the white community counts, not only because foreign businessmen tend to mix with them, but also because most foreigners will not invest if the locals are reluctant to do so.

Zaire rebels resume march on Kinshasa

FROM REUTERS IN LUBUMBASHI

REBELS in Zaire yesterday said they had abandoned a pledge to South Africa's President Mandela and resumed their advance towards the capital, Kinshasa.

Bizima Karaha, the rebel "Foreign Minister", also told a news conference in Lubumbashi that the rebels would storm Kinshasa if Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo accepted his election as Speaker of the Zaire parliament.

The archbishop was appointed on Saturday in the hope that he could mediate a peace deal between President Mobutu and the rebels.

Mr Karaha said that, over

the past few days, Zairean troops backed by the Angolan rebel group, Unita, and former Rwandan troops had attacked rebel positions near the town of Kinshasa, 125 miles east of Kinshasa, but had been driven back.

"Mobutu has used the talks to reinforce his troops, bring in Unita elements, former Rwandan troops, and consolidate his position in Kinshasa," he said.

"Our response to this is that we are abandoning our pledge and we are now advancing and will continue to advance. We shall now talk and fight, and fight and talk."

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12 OVERSEAS NEWS

Christians flock to hear Pope call for Lebanon's liberty

By NICHOLAS BLANDFORD IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE POPE yesterday celebrated Mass in Beirut before thousands of Lebanon's Christians. He later called for the country's "total independence, complete sovereignty and unambiguous freedom", although he stopped short of saying that Syrian and Israeli forces should withdraw.

More than 300,000 Christians — about 10 per cent of the country's population — attended the outdoor seafest service, waving the yellow-and-white flags of the Vatican in the sweltering mid-morning heat.

It was the Pope's first visit to the Middle East and his theme from arriving at Beirut airport on Saturday was reconciliation between the Christian and Muslim communities.

"Lebanon... has shown that people can respect the rights of every individual to religious freedom; that all are united in love for this homeland," he said. He arrived to

take the Mass from the papal embassy in the mountain village of Harisa, 20 miles north of Beirut. His "Popemobile" was strewn with rose petals and rice from the 100,000 Christians lining the route.

On Saturday night, the Pope

addressed thousands of Lebanon's young people in a ceremony at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Harisa that had all the raucous atmosphere of a football match.

Frequently interrupted by the chanting and singing of *El-baba*, as he is known in Lebanon, he told the gathering to bridge the communal divide. "You are the treasure of Lebanon... destroy the barricades, build new bridges of communication among each other," he urged.

The arrival of the Pope had been eagerly anticipated by the Christians of Lebanon, the most important Christian community in the region, who hoped his visit would bolster their waning influence.

Although the Pope was welcomed by all religious communities, his visit has emphasised the country's sectarian tension. The Christian community traditionally dominated Lebanese politics, but



The Pope prays with two Lebanese priests



About 300,000 people attend Mass in Beirut yesterday. The Pope urged reconciliation between Christians and Muslims during his visit

the 1975-1990 civil war eroded their power base, and today the Christians consider themselves increasingly marginalised from the political arena. With most of the Christian hierarchy now in self-imposed exile in Paris, leadership has fallen to the Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Nasrallah

Boutros Sfeir, the spiritual leader of the Maronites, Lebanon's largest Christian sect.

Cardinal Sfeir has frequently accused the Government of the Sunni Muslim Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, of sectarian bias and has consistently attacked the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Neighbouring Syria

has 35,000 troops in the country and Damascus retains a virtual hegemony over the Lebanese Government.

Christian complaints have highlighted the plight of the former leader of the Christian Lebanese forces militia, Samir Geagea, who is serving two life sentences in prison. The

Christian opposition has objected to Mr Geagea's incarceration, noting that he was the only warlord from the 16-year conflict to have been put on trial.

Before his trip, the Pope was inundated with appeals from Mr Geagea's supporters to recognise his predicament and

demand the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. But the Pope limited his comments to a 200-page document that he wrote on Lebanon's future, in which he called for Lebanon's full independence without referring by name to Syria or Israel, which occupies the country's south.

Day of mourning highlights split among Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SOMBRE weekend ceremonies to honour the 18,538 Israeli soldiers killed in the 49 years since the foundation of the state highlighted the growing divisions between secular and ultra-Orthodox Jews, many of whom do not serve in the armed forces.

The worst incident occurred in Jerusalem when ultra-Orthodox demonstrators hurled stones at a policeman standing to attention as air raid sirens wailed to mark the beginning of Memorial Day during which tens of thousands of Israelis visit military graves. It is customary for the country to come to a complete halt as the sirens sound. The policeman, who was injured, was one of a large squad on duty in Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street, which the ultra-Orthodox or Haredic Jews want closed during the sabbath. The protesters called the mourning policemen "Nazis" and taunted them with the cry: "Next Memorial Day they will mourn you as well".

In an interview to mark Memorial Day, Amonon Shahak, the Chief of Staff,

underlined the splits dividing Israeli society by claiming that these caused him more concern than the growing arsenal of Syrian long-range missiles in the process of being equipped with VX nerve gas.

Writing in *The Jerusalem Post*, Yosef Lapid, a leading journalist and Holocaust survivor, was scathing about the increasing influence of the ultra-Orthodox Jews who since last year's election have been working behind the scenes to impose their narrow views on many aspects of Israeli life.

"Israeli society is disappearing into the black hole of Haredism [ultra-Orthodoxy]. Tens of thousands of youngsters are squeezed into Yeshivot [seminaries run by the ultra-Orthodox], evading IDF [Israeli Defence Force] service, avoiding productive work and study that is of any benefit to a modern country."

Mr Lapid added that fewer and fewer non-religious Jews "who do army service and work for a living are supporting more and more idlers who are amassing political power."

Saddam 'spies' face deportation from US

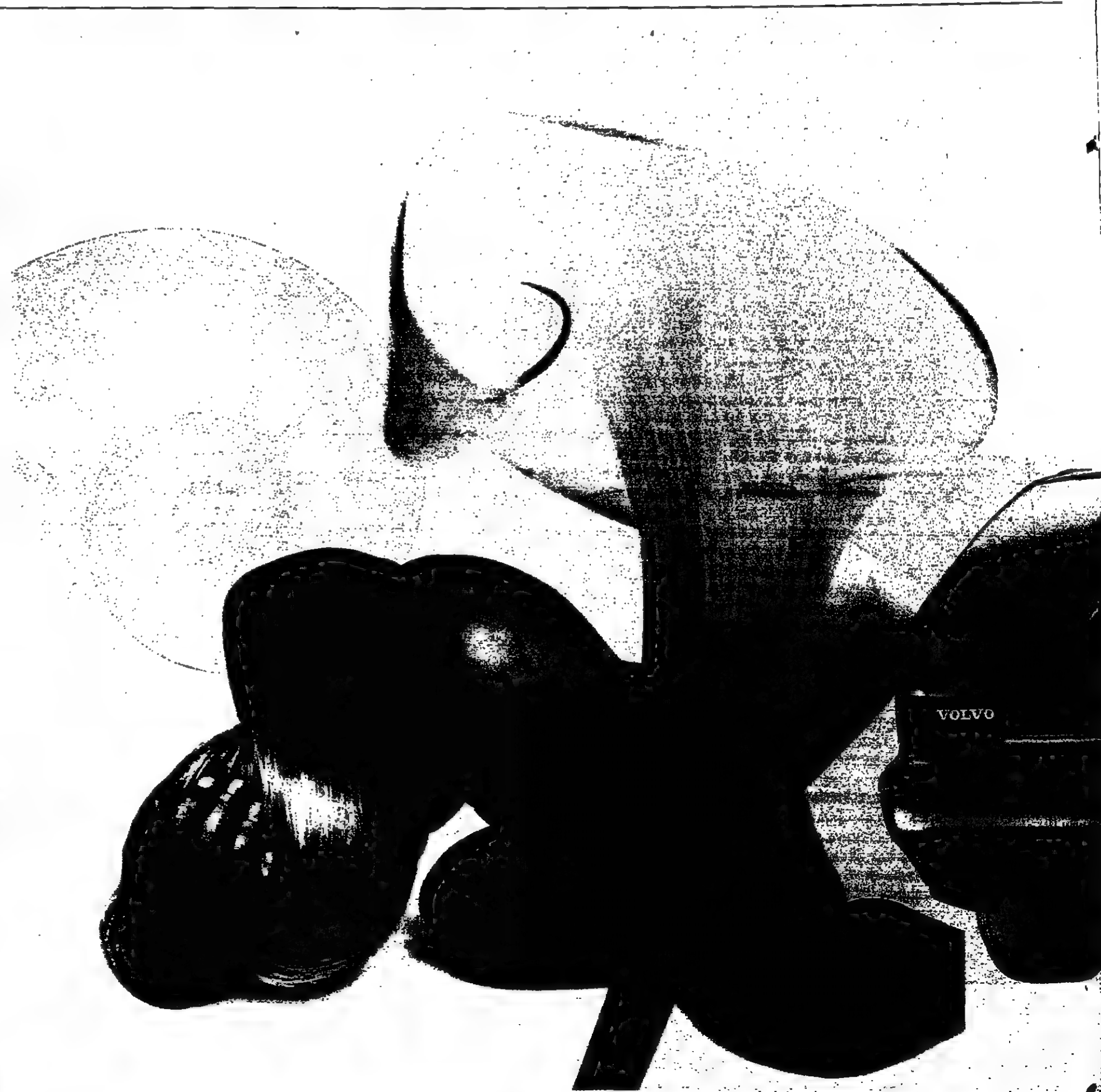
FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A GROUP of Iraqis who worked with the CIA to try to overthrow President Saddam Hussein are in jail in California facing deportation, possibly back to Iraq, as double agents.

The embittered 25 men and one woman are accused by other refugees of working undercover for Saddam and of helping him to crush the CIA-backed Opposition when his forces stormed into Kurdish sanctuaries in northern Iraq last August. The speed of Saddam's success raised strong suspicions that his enemies had been heavily penetrated by his spies.

Up to 6,000 Iraqi refugees who fled from the disaster have been promised political asylum by United States authorities after a journey to Turkey and then to Guam, an American island in the Pacific, before reaching the mainland. Those in custody have been identified as national security risks, based on interviews with FBI agents, according to the Justice Department in Washington. Their cases will now be heard by an immigration judge.

All deny being agents for Saddam and say they are victims of jealousies between two opposition groups.



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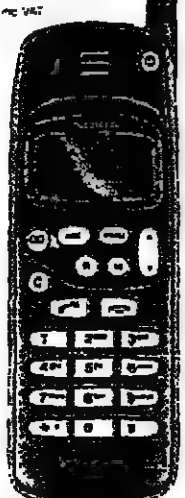
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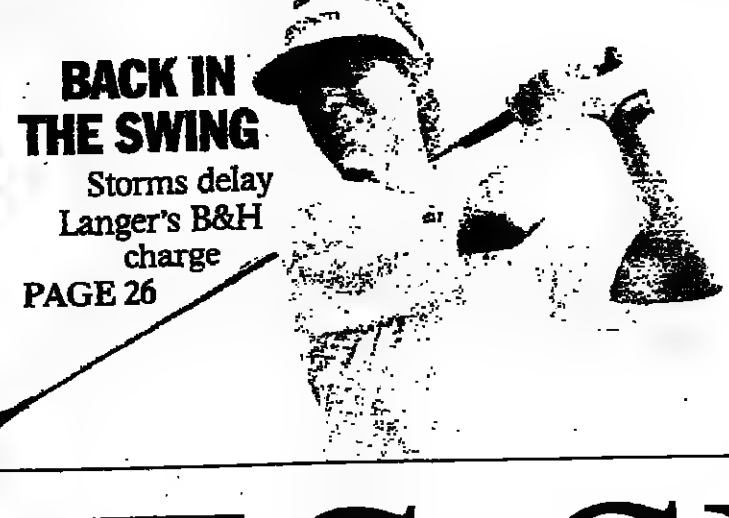
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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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Michael Schumacher
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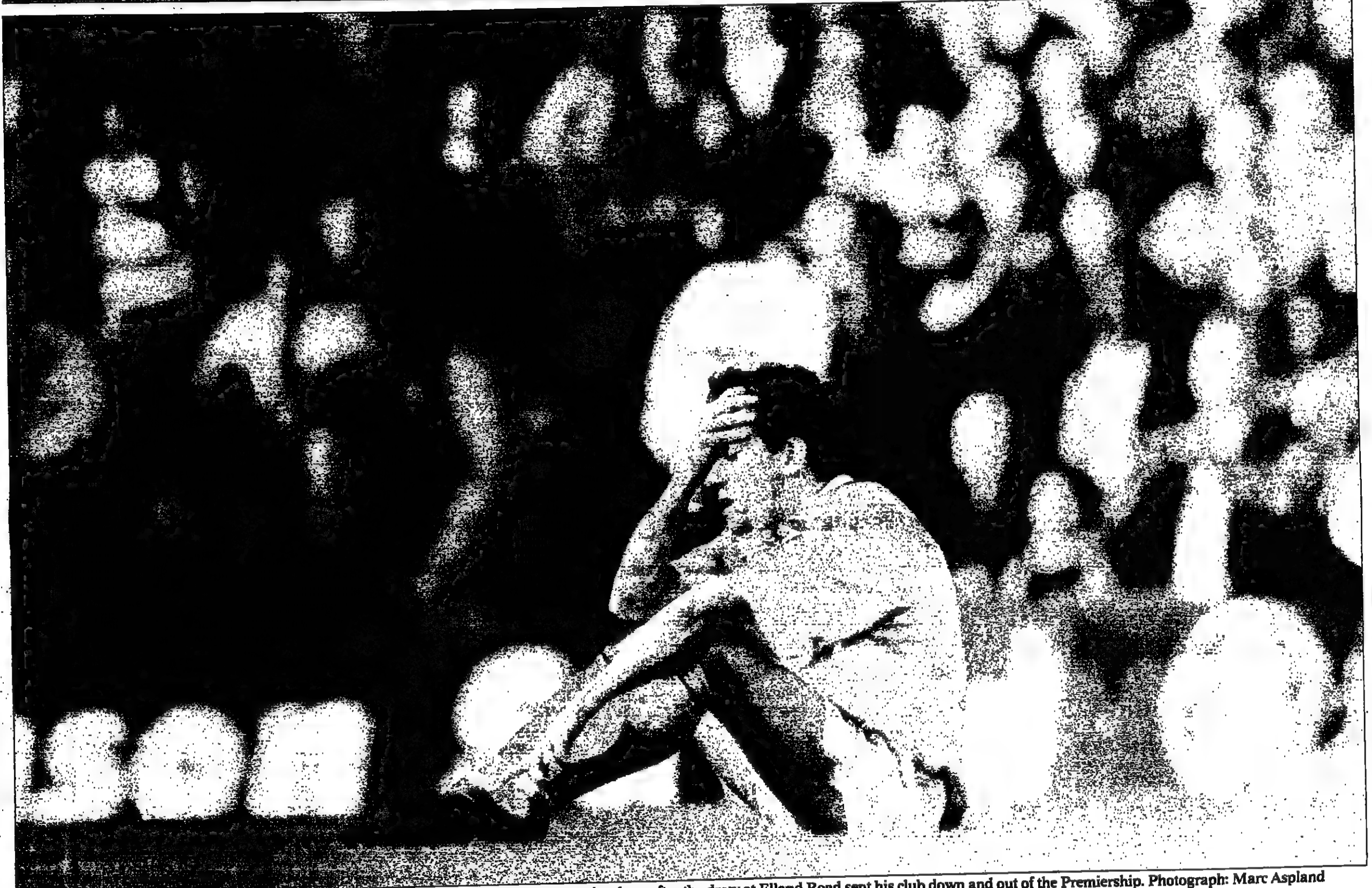
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Leicester win
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

COVENTRY ESCAPE AGAIN ON BLACKMORE ROAD



Fallen idol: Juninho, the Brazilian whose goal briefly gave Middlesbrough hope, sits alone after the draw at Elland Road sent his club down and out of the Premiership. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Middlesbrough down in flames

Leeds United 1
Middlesbrough 1

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN ROBSON'S bold attempt to transplant the exotic skills of Brazil and Italy to Teesside ended in failure and the utter despair of relegation on the barren land of Elland Road yesterday. A series of wildly expensive signings once acclaimed as the work of a visionary now stand condemned as an act of grand footballing folly.

Sent down, in the end, by the three points they failed to docked them when they failed to fulfil their fixture against Blackburn Rovers on December 21, Middlesbrough failed to secure the win they needed.

While goals from Dion Dublin and Paul Williams at White Hart

Lane saved Coventry City for the tenth time on the final day and sent down Sunderland, who lost 1-0 at Wimbledon. Middlesbrough could only manage a deflected shot from Juninho to counter Brian Deane's headed second-half goal. It was not enough. It was a bleak day for the North East and the revival of football in the region.

The FA Cup Final against Chelsea at Wembley next Saturday will provide a measure of consolation, although their players will have to be dragged up off the floor. But their relegation may rob the Premiership of Juninho, who has illuminated this season like a shooting star.

It is likely the team, a blend of superstars and journeymen that has rarely gelled, will now disintegrate. Robson even backtracked a little last night from his earlier insistence that his stars would stay. "I will have to sit down with my

first-team players and get their thoughts on the position of the club now," he said.

Emerson, who caused so much agonising earlier in the season with his trysts to Brazil, was substituted midway through the second half yesterday and stalked off straight down the tunnel, a symptom of everything that was wrong with the club.

Ravanelli, who scored 31 goals amid the mediocrity but was criticised by team-mates for returning to Italy for treatment on his strained back, was not fit. At the end, Juninho fell to the floor and would not be comforted.

The only vestige of hope now for them may be a High Court appeal against the Premier League's three-point penalty. "At the end of the day," Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, said, "we have been relegated because of a decision by grey men in grey suits

BOTTOM OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	38	10	11	17	60	66	41
Coventry	38	9	14	15	38	64	41
Sunderland	38	10	10	18	36	53	40
Middlesbrough	38	10	12	16	51	60	39
North Forest	38	6	16	16	51	69	34

Middlesbrough deducted three points

behind closed doors. Whether we will take action is for me to know. I will do what is best for the club."

A female streaker had lightened the tension a little just before the kick-off. She brought a smile to the face of Juninho but it did not last.

He gave his all, as usual, but so desperate has he become, so apparently lacking in confidence in the rest of his team-mates, that he began by trying to beat Leeds United on his own.

Leeds, who had not conceded a goal at home since Boxing Day,

forged the best early chance when Lilley wrestled aside Blackmore on the edge of the Middlesbrough area. His shot cannoned off the body of Roberts and left him, fleetingly, with an open goal but his weak shot was cleared.

At the other end, Stamp had a fierce shot tipped over the bar by Martyn and then Juninho produced the game's best piece of skill by controlling an awkward ball from Pearson on the half-way line and slipping it past Hall.

Two minutes before the interval, Juninho played another perfectly weighted pass to Stamp who needed to provide only the simplest of touches to free Beck, unmarked again, in the centre. Once more, the ball failed to reach the Danish forward. In the half's dying seconds, though, Middlesbrough escaped. Mustoe's defensive header fell to Bowyer 15 yards out. He sliced his volley wide.

Nine minutes after half-time, Hignett, who had been paralysed by nerves, paid for the poverty of his performance when he was replaced by Kinder. Almost immediately, Juninho forged another chance for Middlesbrough when he slipped a through-ball between Leeds's two central defenders but Beck's left-foot toe-poke was saved by Martyn at the second attempt.

Kinder brought a new urgency to Middlesbrough's left flank and in the 69th minute, Robson took Emerson off, prompting his show of petulance and delighted cries of "Emerson's going home".

Four minutes after that, as Middlesbrough's Premiership life ebbed away, Rush nearly sealed their fate when he pounced on Deane's nod back and fired his shot in low at Roberts. The goalkeeper saved with his legs and when the ball was played back in, Lilley's tap-in was ruled offside.

There was, though, to be no reprieve for Middlesbrough. Fourteen minutes from the end, Wallace, a substitute for Rush, curled a cross in from the right which was met by Deane's head and dispatched firmly beyond Roberts.

Some Middlesbrough heads went down, but not Juninho's. Three minutes later, he cut in from the left and his right-foot shot was deflected off Bowyer and beyond Martyn. Middlesbrough mounted a furious late assault but the goal they needed would not come.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Martyn — G. Hall, D. Wetherall, G. Kelly, A. Dango — I. East, L. Bowyer, L. Radford, I. Sharpe — B. Deane, D. Lilley.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-1-1): B. Roberts — C. Fleming, N. Pearson, G. Foster, C. Blackmore — P. Hignett (sub V. Jordan, S. Munn), P. Stamp, M. Emerson — Juninho — M. Beck.

Referee: A. White

United crowned, page 28
Coventry escape again, page 29
Sunderland relegated, page 29
Barcelona win, page 31

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Balding keeps a tight rein on Badminton

The fact that three-day eventing is not the television sport it once was is not the BBC's fault, as it set out to show on Saturday by wheeling out the sort of treatment that even the mainstay of mainstream sports would aspire to — the best part of an hour on *Grandstand*, followed by more than two hours of live, uninterrupted coverage on BBC2 of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials. And not a princess or dashing consort in sight... well, not on horseback, anyway.

From a television point of view, the cross-country stage of a three-day event is a sporting oddity. On the one hand it combines the genuine excitement of watching rider and horse in nostril-flaring close-up with slapstick comedy

(Hang on, Katie, hang on — oh, it's another ducking). On the other, these thrills and spills have precious little bearing on the overall outcome. That is dictated by the dressage, which the BBC could not be bothered to show and by the showjumping yesterday that many of us — no doubt — could not be bothered to watch. For those who missed it, Ian Stark and Stanwick Ghost knocked down five fences including the first, a feat of scoreboard vandalism that reduced Michael Tucker, the BBC's main commentator, to total silence.

But despite the proven importance of each gaudily-painted showjumping pole, it is the cross-country that captures the imagination... and the television audiences. As the afternoon progressed and



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

the weather moved from foul to fair, three things impressed. The first two were technical — some excellent overhead camera work from a circling helicopter or airship, which gave a real idea of the layout of the course, and some ingenious parallel pictures of horses at full gallop taken from a camera mounted on some sort of swift but silent vehicle.

The third success was human. Clare Balding, the BBC has tried various ways of presenting three-day eventing

in recent years and normally what results is either too glibly or too push. Balding was neither — she has an excellent microphone voice, knows her horses and knew the course well enough to stand in as commentator while her guests watched the normally painful replays. She coaxed mild controversy from Mark Phillips, who thought it was the easiest course for some years. She cajoled humor from an exhausted Pippa Funnell: "I think I should

definitely give up smoking for next year." And she coped admirably with the unexpected, when Stark inexplicably left her interviewing a tree with 90 seconds to go.

In the commentary box, Tucker and his co-commentators, Lorna Clarke and Lucinda Green, were demonstrating a depth of knowledge that at times bordered on the comical. Clarke and Green competing to show who knew more about a particular Swedish rider. "She's a pilot," she used to be an acrobatic skier. She's the daughter of a priest. Eventually, Green moved reluctantly on... to tell us about a horse bred by Eddie Macken's wife's mother.

Making sure that the whole thing didn't become off-puttingly incestuous were Johnnie Wetherston and Wen-

dy Sheppard, the producers, who, as well as ensuring that the camera-work remained impressive throughout, also kept editorial input under rewardingly tight control. If the commentary team had built up a particular rider particularly well or simply spotted someone showing a bit of flair, they made absolutely certain that Balding grabbed a few words with whoever it was afterwards — even if she did have to barge into the weighing-in tent to get them.

Only one thing defeated their efforts, the complete inability of the otherwise enjoyable Tucker to master the electronic time-keeping. "He's ten seconds down... come on, lan... In fact he's up, not down — we're getting overexcited." At last, a soul-mate for Murray Walker.

Allen on song to steer Monarchs to victory

FOR THE second successive week the crowd at Stamford Bridge were treated to an anxious finish but yesterday it all ended happily, with the London Monarchs beating the Scottish Claymores 16-8 (Richard Wetherell writes). With just over a minute remaining, the Claymores, the defending World League champions, got the ball back, requiring a touchdown and a two-point conversion to draw level. Starting on their own 45-yard line they got as close as the Monarchs' six-yard line. Then, an incomplete pass and a penalty took them backwards before another Claymores penalty ended the game with five seconds remaining.

Clive Allen, the former England soccer striker, opened the scoring for London with the first field goal of his new career. He added another from 27 yards and a third goal in the final quarter. In stark contrast, the Claymores missed three long-range field goals.

Cambridge waltz home

BALLROOM DANCING: Cambridge won the Varsity match for the second year in succession, inflicting a convincing defeat on Oxford over all four dances — waltz, quick step, cha-cha and jive (Ruth Gledhill writes). In 24 years, Oxford have now won the Varsity match 16 times, compared to eight victories for Cambridge.

However, the Oxford B team fought back, easily defeating Cambridge over the four dances at the spacious Kelsey Kerridge Hall on Saturday.

Some observers put the defeat of the eight-couple Oxford A team down to a last-minute rule change, which rendered some of the leading Oxford dancers ineligible for the Varsity competition.

McCarron shares lead

GOLF: Scott McCarron coped with the twin handicaps of a pulled hamstring and a testing breeze to join David Duval in the lead after the third round of the BellSouth Atlanta Classic in Duluth, Georgia. McCarron produced seven birdies in a round of 66, six under par. Duval, the leader after two rounds, bogeyed the final hole for a 73, and he and McCarron stood at 11-under-par 205, two strokes ahead of their fellow American, David Toms. Bill Glasson was a further three shots back, along with Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, who finished with a double bogey at the 15th and a bogey at the 17th.

Somerset depart early

BOWLS: Somerset, the defending champions, waved goodbye to their hopes of retaining the Walker Cup when they made an undignified preliminary-round exit from the national women's double rink championship. Dorset overwhelmed the holders by an unprecedented margin of 23 shots, 45-22. In another upset, Warwickshire defeated Norfolk, after a tense finish, and by a single shot, 35-34.

Mason keeps her title

GYMNASICS: Lisa Mason, of Huntingdon Gym Club, retained her title for a second successive year by beating Annika Reeder, of Basildon, into second place and Gemma Cuff, of Heathrow, into third at the British championships in Guildford on Saturday. Melissa Wilcox, of Bristol, won the junior championship and Katy Lennon, from Leatherhead and Dorking, the 12 and 15 years age group.

Boldon sprints in

ATHLETICS: Ato Boldon, of Trinidad, ran the fastest 100 metres of the year in winning a race in Modesto, California, in 9.89sec on Saturday. The time was the seventh-fastest of all time. The world record, set by Donovan Bailey, of Canada, at the Olympic Games last year, is 9.84sec. Boldon was the bronze medal-winner in the 100 and 200 metres in Atlanta.

Carmichael on target

SHOOTING: John Carmichael, of Worcestershire, yesterday won Lord Costello's Cup, the top individual award at the English VIII Club meeting at Bishw where men and women fire at ranges up to 1,200 yards. Carmichael, twice a target rifle team world championship gold medal-winner, took the trophy with 399 out of 450, the lowest score in the event for many years because of the windy conditions.

China strike quickly

SWIMMING: China captured the first gold medal of the East Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, yesterday when Zhu Yingwen won the women's 100 metres freestyle on the first day of competition. Zhu finished in a time of 56.72sec, followed by Guo Wei, also of China. Lee Bo-Eun, of South Korea, was third. China won 25 gold medals at the previous Games.

Hill installed at Palace

BASKETBALL: Crystal Palace, who were expected to announce the arrival of an experienced coach this week, have plumped instead for the virtually untried Graham Hill. At 29, Hill will become the second-youngest coach in the Budweiser League. Dan Lloyd and Mark Clark, the respective assistant coaches at London Towers and the Leopards, were expected to be the front-runners for the job.

GOLF

Langer clings to his advantage in twilight climax

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WEATHER delays interrupted play for more than two hours in the final round of the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire yesterday. There was a hold-up of 40 minutes soon after play started and then a longer one in the late afternoon when an electrical storm arrived in the area.

Many golfers would have been adversely affected by the disruptions, but not Bernhard Langer as he strove to win his second event in eight days. The worse the weather, the more difficult the conditions, the better he played. He is indomitable.

After taking the Italian Open with a superb last round of 64 eight days ago, Langer moved into a two-stroke lead over Lee Westwood with seven holes remaining.

At this stage, Langer was 11 under par. Westwood was one stroke ahead of Ian Woosnam and Padraig Harrington and Eduardo Romero were two shots further back. It is hard to describe the weather conditions. One minute the sun shone and the course was playable. The next moment, huge menacing clouds would be borne in on the strong south-westerly winds. Any semblance of brightness would disappear from the sky and soon rain would be falling in sheets.

How quickly the weather changed was demonstrated in

the ten minutes it took Ian Woosnam and Eduardo Romero to complete the 9th hole and reach the 10th tee. As they walked up to the 9th green the sky above the Chilterns to their left, looked light. The moment they walked off the green they were heading towards clouds that were darker than a raven's wing. Sure enough, just as Romero waited to drive, a siren went. Play was halted and they sought refuge in a tent by the side of the tee.

Under the circumstances the 71 by Emanuele Canonica, the first man out, represented a miraculous score. Canonica eagled the 1st when, after an enormous, wind-assisted drive had travelled 380 yards, he sank his second shot, a 50-yard pitch with a sand-wedge.

DETAILS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated
EARLY LEADING FINAL SCORES: 200: A. Oldcorn 75, 69, 74, 71; M. Moxland 74, 67, 74, 74; 201: P. McDermott (Ire) 71, 72, 73, 74; I. Pymmer 72, 69, 75, 75; M.A. Jorjens 70, 72, 69, 75; S. Latta (Ire) 70, 70, 78, 75; C. Sweeney (Ire) 70, 71, 74, 70; 202: P. Lawrie 70, 73, 75; S. Bowler 70, 72, 69, 75; S. Marshall 69, 71, 76, 76; S. Armes (Ire) 73, 70, 77, 72; S. Webster 72, 72, 76, 73; R. Green (Aus) 75, 69, 74, 75; D. Cooper 71, 73, 75, 76; S. Field 75, 69, 73, 76; 204: E. Canonica (I) 73, 71, 71, 71; D. Brand (Ire) 69, 73, 77, 77; G. Orr 70, 74, 72, 77; 205: O. Harrison (Ire) 75, 67, 60, 73; P. Eades 71, 71, 77, 78; A. Collard 69, 75, 76; P. O'Donnell (Ire) 71, 71, 75, 78; D. Topping 74, 69, 74, 78; P. Watson 73, 71, 72, 79; 206: S. Torrance 74, 73, 77, 75; R. Davis (Aus) 73, 71, 76, 76; D. Gribbin 74, 67, 73, 73; T. Gossage (Ire) 76, 67, 75, 76; J. Lomas 69, 72, 75, 80.

A few minutes later players were hauled in off the course because of the danger of lightning.

Canonica, an Italian, dropped only two strokes all day. But perhaps he is used to leaning into the wind. After all, he comes from Pisa.

No two players demonstrated such contrasting fortunes as Andrew Oldcorn and Colin Montgomerie. Both are thought to be Scottish. Montgomerie is, though he chooses to live in Surrey. Oldcorn is not, though he lives in Edinburgh, has a Scottish accent and supports Hearts. Born in Bolton, he won the English amateur championship in 1982.

Oldcorn's round of 71 was ten strokes better than Montgomerie's 81 and meant he finished on 289, one over par, nine strokes ahead of Montgomerie. Oldcorn had no difficulty on the 2nd, a par three of 165 yards. Montgomerie found the green but then took five putts.

Once Severiano Ballesteros was asked how he had taken four putts and he replied: "I missed a two-footer for my third."

When Montgomerie was asked if it was true that he had taken five putts there was a risk of an explosion. In truth, he is making big strides in controlling his temper and he kept a sufficient grip of himself to explain that he held his



Langer, buffeted by wind and rain, refused to be distracted by conditions

putter lightly and thus found it less easy to put well in a wind. "I have never won in a wind," Montgomerie said. It was pointed out that he had nearly won the 1992 US Open at Pebble Beach when the breeze was certainly more than a zephyr. Montgomerie

is sharper than a tack. There is never any point in trying to outsmart him. "That was because I hit my irons so close," he replied. "I didn't really have to put that day." Montgomerie must be dreading the arrival of this event each year. Last season

he finished with an 84. "I don't know what I'll do next year," he said. "I am not looking forward to coming back here. It is so exposed. You could play at Wentworth and it would be little more than a breeze, but here it's a gale."

RUGBY LEAGUE: INSPIRED SECOND-HALF BURST HALTS A TWO-YEAR UNBEATEN HOME RUN BY LANCASHIRE SIDE

Leeds end proud Salford record

LEEDS Rhinos brought to an end the two-year unbeaten home league record of Salford Reds with an inspired second-half performance that enabled them to consolidate third place in the Super League.

The teams were level at 14-14 in the 56th minute, but

Leeds eventually won 33-20. They went ahead in the second minute when Blackmore's wild pass found Sterling, the wing, who went over in the corner. However, Salford responded quickly to take the lead with tries from Morley and Forber.

Sterling scored his second try from Harris's kick and Harris then nipped over from acting half back and converted his own try to give Leeds a 14-10 half-time lead.

Salford drew level through McAvoy, but Leeds then took full control with Hassan

scoring 75 yards after a smart scrum move. Holroyd added a dropped goal to make it 21-14 and Leeds then confirmed their superiority with further tries from Sheridan and Hassan, with a superb 90-yard effort.

Halifax Blue Sox staged a spectacular finale to overcome Warrington Wolves 42-30 after an exciting, 14-try spectacular that was decided only in the final eight minutes at Turf Moor.

Warrington, still finding their feet under Daryl van de Velde, their new coach, opened the scoring on eight minutes through Sculthorpe. Halifax gained the initiative with first-half tries from Bouvier Chester and the first of two from Tullagi. Tui Kohelo replied for Warrington with a try on 19 minutes, followed by the first of two from Wingfield to make the half-time score 18-16 to Halifax.

In the second half, Pearson, of Halifax, and Sheffield, of Warrington, were sent to the sin-bin after an exchange of blows before Wingfield scored his second try.

Michael Jackson turned the game in Halifax's favour with his first try on 52 minutes, following a thrilling 40-metre run. He added a second after 60 minutes, after a similar burst which fully justified his man-of-the-match award. Warrington fought back through Briars and Vagana, but Halifax sealed the game with late tries from Rowley and Tullagi.

Castleford Tigers remain at the foot of the Super League after their tenth successive league defeat, against Paris Saint-Germain. Paris trailed 5-2 at the interval but second-half tries from Bergman and O'Donnell steered them to only their second league win of the season.

Eagles hit by fourth successive defeat

Sheffield Eagles 14
Oldham Bears 18

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE manner of their defeat would hardly have encouraged potential investors to purchase a stake in Sheffield Eagles's proposed public flotation.

Sheffield's fourth successive loss has dragged them into a scramble, involving four clubs, at the foot of the Super League to avoid the supposed one relegation place. However, if Oldham Bears can repeat the resolution shown yesterday at the Don Valley Stadium, they could well start to climb away from the danger zone.

Results and tables 40

After losing to Halifax in the final minute of their last match, there was particular satisfaction for Oldham in only their second league victory. After Andy Goodway's departure as coach, Bob Lidner, who has arrived back at the club as football manager, has instilled a spirit that withstood a Sheffield fight-back in the second half. His nails were cut to the quick by the British, however.

Oldham's point-scoring was confined to the first half. They ran out to Toddy Bear's Placid, and, suitably provoked, exploited Sheffield's vulnerability out wide twice in the opening six minutes. The Eagles' defence splintered in its vain pursuit of Albam, and was then caught out on the other flank by Hill, after a knock-on from the restart by Broadbent.

Bentley, a dual international, agreed another 12-month deal with the Blue Sox as compensation for missing six weeks of the season as he tours South Africa with the Lions.

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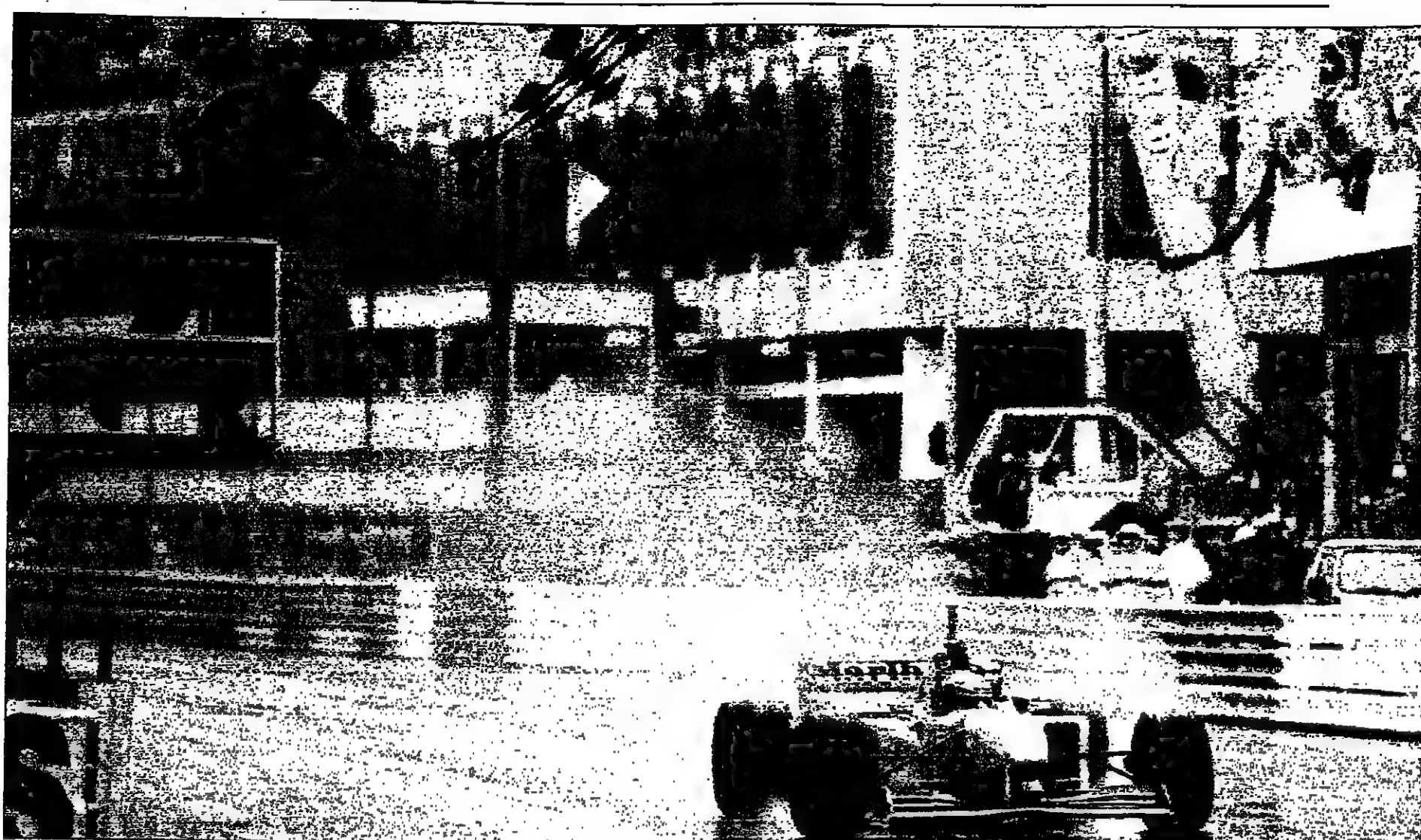
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MOTOR RACING: FERRARI CELEBRATE MILESTONE WITH DECISIVE VICTORY IN MONACO GRAND PRIX



Michael Schumacher crosses the finish line nearly one minute ahead of the field for Ferrari's first victory in Monte Carlo since 1981. Photograph: Mike Hewitt / Allsport

Brilliant Schumacher reigns supreme

FROM ROY HUGHES
IN MONTE CARLO

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, the German who has twice been world champion and will assuredly be so again, enjoyed Monte Carlo in the rain yesterday, aquaplaning to a victory which, even by his standards, demonstrated that he is the consummate Formula One driver of his era.

Schumacher chose, correctly, to race in the Ferrari spare car because it had been set up for "intermediate" conditions, rain and dry; he proved from the green light that his hunger to caress home his scarlet car — on the fiftieth anniversary of Enzo Ferrari introducing the dream machine to racing — has not diminished with the serenity that has come into his life after the recent birth of his first daughter, Gina Maria.

However, it was a day that Ferrari could enjoy even beyond the unquestioned skill of the man they pay £1 million per race. Eddie Irvine, who must now be called "Steady Eddie", has so quelled his volatile Ulster temperament that, for the third successive race, he finished on the podium, in third place. It means that Ferrari, on their precious anniversary, are omnipotent again, top of the drivers' championship with Schumacher, and top of the constructors' championship.

Separating the Ferrari drivers, beaming from Monaco to São Paulo, where he was born, Rubens Barrichello claimed

second place, the first finish and the first points for the new Stewart Ford combination. Jackie Stewart said: "I have never been happier, not from a victory, not from a championship. I was never emotional about my racing, but Paul [his son] and I sat together throughout the race, and when Rubens crossed the line we both burst out crying. But for a certain Mr Schumacher, Ferrari would have been second today."

So, a remarkable day in the wet around Monaco's lamp-posts, narrow, twisting streets and opulent harbour. It had been wet before, indeed last year, when only three finished and Schumacher himself was embarrassed to go out at the

first corner. This time, as the clouds gathered, the tension mounted. Moments before taking up his position on the grid, Schumacher mused on the decision whether to drive his own car or the spare.

"I was thinking that we had set up two solutions, one for dry and one in case it rained a little bit," he said. "I just decided in the last seconds, though with wet tyres I was concerned to see Helmut Krieger [Frentzen] on slicks. He could have been right... but once out there, it felt so bloody slow in the corners at Mirabeau, Loews and Pordier that I was thinking I could run beside my car."

What is this, questions in

the mind of the master driver? Questions indeed. "Can anyone tell me what happened to my brother?" he asked immediately afterwards. His younger sibling, Ralf, had bumped into a guardrail and his Jordan slid to a halt, rather like a taxi parking, in front of the Café de Paris at the devilish Casino Square.

Michael Schumacher was, by that time, 11 laps into the race. Damon Hill, the champion, losing his grip on the road and on nearly everything else, had already slithered out on lap two, which seems to be as far as the Arrows can take him. How very sad, and how honest of Irvine to admit that, starting from fifteenth position, just behind Hill, there

had been a bunch of drivers bumping and boring. "I hit a couple of people up the rear, I was hit up the back and on the side [one of them Hill]," he said. "Fortunately the Ferrari is a very strong car."

Fortune had less to do with it as the race stretched out, as Schumacher outlasted every driver in a display that fell seven seconds short of perfection over two hours. His one lapse — though he would admit that he and Irvine were having to use the clutch into slow corners to hold back the rampant power of their Ferraris — came on lap 52 of the 62 they were able to complete in the time.

So unprepared that he did not have a visor for the wet,

nor a clear view, he erred coming towards the Devote corner, the first after the start-finish line. "I went straight" he laughed — straight across the bend, but straight into a slip road, into reverse and out again. The whole process, from miscalculation to reverse spin to back on the track, cost him less than those seven seconds, and he was leading by over a minute.

Only Barrichello and Irvine were on the same lap by the finish, though ten drivers made the distance. Olivier Panis, in his Prost, Mika Salo, in the Tyrrell, and Giancarlo Fisichella, in one of the Jordans, were in the points.

Neither of the Williams cars finished. "The choice of tyres was a team choice," the owner, Frank Williams, said. "If it had worked out it would have made us heroes. Our choice was based on a forecast of very fine drizzle for 20 to 30 minutes. Under these most difficult circumstances, the drivers could not be faulted."

True, but one was pretty nearly faultless. He is the man putting Ferrari back where countless tifosi, the addicts of the Ferrari legend, believe it belongs. "I need a driver with intelligence. I need someone to push and improve the team. I need a huge driver," Luca di Montezemolo, the president, whose long and troubled quest to resurrect the famous Italian team included gambling a fortune on luring Michael Schumacher, said. Together, they look supreme.



Jackie Stewart and his son, Paul, celebrate their first points

DETAILS FROM MONTE CARLO

RESULTS: 1, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 55.44sec (55 laps). 2, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) at 53.20sec. 3, E Irvine (Ir, Ferrari) at 53.20sec. 4, D Panis (Fr, Prost-Mugen-Honda) at 54.42sec. 5, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) at 54.42sec. 6, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) at 54.42sec. 7, M Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) at 54.42sec. 8, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 9, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 10, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 11, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 12, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 13, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 14, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 15, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 16, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 17, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 18, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 19, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 20, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 21, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 22, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 23, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 24, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 25, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 26, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 27, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 28, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 29, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 30, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 31, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 32, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 33, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 34, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 35, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 36, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 37, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 38, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 39, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 40, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 41, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 42, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 43, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 44, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 45, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 46, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 47, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 48, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 49, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 50, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 51, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 52, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 53, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 54, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 55, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 56, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 57, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 58, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 59, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec. 60, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) at 54.42sec. 61, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) at 54.42sec. 62, J Herbert (GB, Arrows-Torino) at 54.42sec.

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FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED PROVE EFFICIENT TO THE LAST AS SEASON ENDS IN CELEBRATION

Champions' title party runs smoothly

Manchester United 2
West Ham United 0

By MARK HODKINSON

SKILL, endurance, luck and supreme confidence are all vital ingredients for a team to secure the FA Carling Premiership title. Another crucial factor is organisation and Manchester United, typically, excel in this particular field. In short, they now had to organise a party.

Visitors to Old Trafford yesterday were presented with an official timetable of events, neatly typed and laid out like a GCSE examination paper.

Four of the United sides — the reserves, A team, B team and, of course, their first team, have won their respective leagues. So, Eric Cantona received his player-of-the-year award on the centre circle (south side), while the supporters' tribute to Sir Matt Busby took place at the South West Quadrant. It seemed almost incidental that at 4pm a football match started between Manchester United and West Ham United.

Again, the downgrading of the final Premiership matches of the season owed everything to Manchester United's nerveless efficiency. It should have been a frantic showdown, a breathless spat between the football giants from Manchester, Newcastle United and Liverpool. Like the weather yesterday — rain, sun, rain — United's form has been more patchy than expected but they had secured the championship with two games to spare.

Yesterday afternoon the ground was awash with the flags of several European countries to reflect the team's cosmopolitan make-up. The communal singing was eventually interrupted by the kick-off and West Ham, free of the threat of relegation, advertised their mood of relaxation when Kelson lifted the ball out of play direct from the kick-off.

Manchester United immed-



Crowning glory: the Manchester United party begins as the team celebrates with the Premiership trophy at Old Trafford yesterday

ately fell into their seamless passing game and were rewarded with a fine goal from Scholes. After some patient approach work, he thundered a shot against the underside of the crossbar and Solskjaer headed in the rebound to make sure. The goal, though it lifted the crowd, did little for the game as a contest.

United were happy to retreat deep into their own half while West Ham covered any runs that threatened to move into their territory. The sun broke free from a buttress of clouds and, amid the concise but unadventurous passing, it

was clear that minds had already wandered to the final whistle and the inevitable celebration party.

Jordi Cruick was brought on soon after half-time and there were suggestions that the presence of his famous father in the stands had prompted the substitution: it was that kind of moment.

Dowie moved in on goal but fell on to the ball as he tried to shoot. Lomas brought a save from Schmeichel, as West Ham added a dash of adventure to the general staidness. Bilic even summoned the energy to set about Beckham after

the midfield player had clipped one heel too many in a well-populated midfield. The referee agreed that Beckham had been unnecessarily reckless and took his name.

An army of burly chaps in blazers and ties took up position at the perimeter fence 15 minutes before the end to deter supporters from running onto the turf. Their brief was to keep a watch on the crowd and not the game — they did not miss a great deal as proceedings became increasingly scrappy at their backs.

Cantona suddenly moved forward and played a wonder-

ful pass to the feet of Cruick. The Dutchman shifted his weight and crashed the ball past Miklosko.

A light aircraft circled overhead bearing the message "MUF — champions again" and the crowd urged Schmeichel to move forward to join the United attack.

Though the scoreline now flattered United, it was fitting that their championship season should end in suitably relaxed mood. The final cameo of an otherwise predictable afternoon saw Les Sealey, the former Manchester United goalkeeper, replace Miklosko

in the West Ham goal. He milked the applause of the Stretford End and truly ignited the party atmosphere.

The rain poured down, the championship trophy came out, and, once more, Manchester found itself at the epicentre of footballing excellence.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — D. Irwin (sub: M. Clegg, 45min), D. May, R. Johnson, P. Neville — K. Pilkington (sub: S. McCree, 71), D. Blackburn, H. Butt, P. Bardsley (sub: J. Cruick, 45), S. Cantona, G. Solskjaer.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L. Miklosko (sub: L. Sealey, 80) — R. Ferdinand (sub: M. Hughes, 60), H. Hall, S. Ellis — S. Potts, M. Morris, S. Lomas, H. Parfitt, S. Lush — D. Down, P. Nelson.

Referee: R. Lodge

New-look Newcastle joining Europe's elite

Newcastle United 5
Nottingham Forest 0

By ANDREW LONGMORE

FOR the second year in succession, Newcastle had the European Cup on their minds in the last game of the season. That they will make it this time through the tradesman's entrance will matter not a jot to their accountants, who were buoyed by the £4 million renewal of their sponsorship deal with Newcastle Breweries before kick-off and can now anticipate the takings from a preliminary knockout round of Europe's most prized tournament early in August.

Victory then and the big money of the Champions' League beckons. No wonder there was much dancing by the grey-suited brigade as news of

Liverpool's draw at Hillsborough filtered through. Not too much should be read into this facile victory over relegated Nottingham Forest. Three goals in six minutes midway through the first half settled the matter, though one would have done so downcast were the visitors.

Dalglish, ever the pragmatist, would have been as happy with four clean sheets to end the season.

It was a day of farewells. Nottingham Forest will be purchasing their gazetteers, David Ginola, not granted the sentimental gift of a place on the bench, will be driving his Renault south over the Tyne Bridge. His transfer request has been granted and his departure is the starkest reflection of the changing style on Tyneside.

Quite what the future holds for Asprilla remains to be seen. Dalglish

is reputedly captivated by the silky skills of the Colombian, but he has spent £2.5 million on Jon Dahl Tomasson, the leading scorer in the Dutch league. His dichotomy was aptly summed up in the opening half an hour. No sooner had Dalglish turned in disgust as Asprilla dallied terribly over a shooting chance than he was putting his hands together to acknowledge the first of three quickfire goals.

Asprilla scored the first, skipping through the heart of the Forest defence, such as it was, to clip a left-foot shot over Fenix and set up the second for Ferdinand two minutes later with a pass of stunning vision. Admittedly, Forest contributed soundly in their own downfall. It was Stuart Pearce's idea to counter a three-man attack of Ferdinand, Shearer and Asprilla with a three-

man defence then his return to the rank of private will come as a relief. Without Van Hooijdonk, Saunders, Pearce himself, Crossley and Roy, Forest were clearly planning for the future. It looks a little bleak. For the first ten minutes, they played quite brightly, forcing Srinke into saves at the foot of either post, but once Newcastle had realised that the direct route was the most effective, Forest's fate was sealed.

The third goal came after Barton, breaking forward from deep in his own half, played a swift one-two with Watson and released Ferdinand to drive home a cross-shot. Had Phillips not stuck out a foot to block a Shearer shot, the damage would have been more severe.

Shearer was not denied for long, though there was a touch of good fortune about Newcastle's fourth

goal, in the 37th minute. Elliott's long shot was partially blocked, but bounced up invitingly at the far post where Shearer's shaven head planted it firmly into the net. Newcastle amused themselves after that, bringing on Beardsley for what might prove to be a last runaround. Elliott added a fifth, 15 minutes from time.

Barcelona or Milan for Newcastle perhaps; Bury for Forest. The crowd gloated over the demise of Middlesbrough and Sunderland. A rousing chorus of "We'll meet again" would have been a more appropriate send-off for Forest.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): P. Bristow — S. Watson, D. Pearson, P. Abbott (sub: K. Gillespie, 80min), J. Shearer — M. Barton, D. Bell (sub: P. Bardsley, 75), R. B. — A. Asprilla (sub: S. Clegg, 80) — L. Ferdinand, A. Shearer.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): A. Foster — C. Cooper, D. Phillips, S. Christie — D. L. S. — S. Gerrard, S. O'Neill (sub: D. Saunders, 75), C. B. — W. Williams (sub: C. Allen, 45), W. Wilson — N. Campbell, I. Moses.

Referee: M. Reed

Bergkamp adds last memory as Derby say their farewells

Derby County 1
Arsenal 3

By RICHARD HOBSON

WHAT was to become a familiar tale unfolded 102 years ago when Steve Bloomer scored the winning goals on Derby County's first appearance at the Baseball Ground. Yesterday, on their last, they were indebted to a bloomer from a less likely source, but ultimately succumbed to two of the most effective strikers in the FA Carling Premiership.

On a day of last hurrahs, no departure ought to have carried more significance to the contest than that of Tony Adams just 11 minutes into proceedings. Two minutes earlier, the England defender had been booked for clattering into Asanovic. Never one to nip on eggshells, he lunged just as clumsily into Daryl Powell on the opposite flank and saw yellow for a second time.

The crowd roared, just as they had through an emotional pre-match build-up. Alan Hinton, his hair now as snowy-white as the shirts he once adorned, flew in from the United States to lead a parade of former players. Charlie George seemed unsure which set of supporters to applaud. His goals against in the 1976 European Cup campaign are recalled as fondly in these parts as his winning strike for Arsenal in the FA Cup Final five years earlier is around Finsbury Park.

Brian Clough sent his apologies, citing flu as an explanation for his non-attendance, but Dave Mackay, who led Derby to promotion as a player and the championship as a manager, was present as guest of honour. There was

much for Mackay to savour, though the closing emotion was one of frustration.

In the first half, after the dismissal of Adams, Derby created chances in abundance, but their finishing lacked the precision of some adventurous approach work. Ward gave them the lead in the seventh minute after his initial header rebounded off the post. Later, he hit the upright again and produced a fine save from Seaman three minutes into the second half when he connected with a Chris Powell cross.

In changing times, just three things can be said with any certainty of Arsenal. They have more heart than most, in Seaman they have a formidable goalkeeper and Wright retains an insatiable spirit at

the other end. Wright's equaliser in the 54th minute testified to speed of both thought and action. A substitute, cut inside from the left to unleash a firm drive that Poom could only parry. As defenders turned, there was Wright already poised to drive home from six yards.

Little blame could be attached to the goalkeeper from Estonia. In any case, he owed Derby nothing, having produced saves already beyond the call of duty from both Wright and Bergkamp. Poom, though, was powerless to prevent Bergkamp putting Arsenal ahead in the eightieth minute with as sublime a goal as the Baseball Ground can have witnessed. Derby felt they had repelled an attack when the ball fell to the Holland striker on the right of the goal. A glance upwards revealed the keeper off his line, a perfectly projected chip floated the ball into the far corner. Wright merely confirmed victory when he turned in Anelka's cross before the most final of final whistles.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M. Poom — P. MacGraith (sub: L. Cansley, 80min), C. Dally, J. Lounan, A. Anelka, A. P. — S. Gerrard, C. Powell (sub: P. T. — R. Wilson (sub: P. Simpson, 75), A. Hinton.

ARSENAL (3-4-2): D. Seaman — M. Nelson, A. Adams, S. Boud — L. Dixon, P. Nelson (sub: R. Anelka, 60), P. Vero (sub: R. Parfitt, 55), D. Pott — D. Bergkamp, I. Wright.

Referee: P. Dunne



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Offer also applies to spouses

Blackburn beaten by lack of appetite for the fray

Blackburn Rovers 2
Leicester City 4

By DAVID MILLER

FOR Blackburn Rovers, this was one match too far. Had the point on Thursday against Middlesbrough not brought safety, their place in the FA Carling Premiership would have been in dire danger on this last, rain-swept afternoon at Ewood Park, the steel monument to Jack Walker set in boggy Lancashire hills.

Leicester City, who likewise had gained midweek security with victory on Wednesday, had, in a word, appetite. Blackburn did not. The months of anxiety had drained their willpower. With the job that mattered already done, Blackburn's empty legs and flagging hearts were unmistakably apparent as 11 men stood immobile, hands on hips, as Leicester ran back to the centre circle after Steve Claridge had scored to give them a 2-1 lead ten minutes into the second half.

One minute after Claridge's goal, Blackburn were effectively buried by a further strike of breathtaking brilliance by Heskey, who brushed past a defender to fire a rising drive behind and above. Blowers into the roof of the net. Promoted Leicester may have struggled to hold their status, but the clear impression is that Martin O'Neill has formed the basis of a side that may prosper next season. They might even, as Coca-Cola Cup-winners, surprise a few in the UEFA Cup.

There are many anonymous, unsung heroes in football every year. The foremost this season is surely Tony Parkes, a temporary manager whose diligence, integrity and modesty have given fresh definition to the term "caretaker". When he took charge of his club for the third time, succeeding the marooned Ray Harford in October, many doubted whether Blackburn could be rescued and few supposed that Parkes would be the one to go the distance and do so.

When he briefly ran on to the pitch, track-suited, to receive a supporters' award before the kick-off, presented by Walker, the moment touched the emotions of any neutral with affection for this famous old club. Walker's bold promise of being "regular in Europe" to a newly-cheerful audience was less easy to endorse. Having spent one fortune to win the championship, Walker probably needs to spare another now to stay afloat.

Blackburn were soon finding it an uphill fight. Early on, a scooped cross from the left by Guppy was headed by Heskey down into the corner of Flowers' net, with the ever-valiant Hendry failing to get in a challenge, but he was soon under an operation. A quarter of an hour later, Blackburn were level, with a bit of luck. Gallacher's shot was fumbled by Keller, somebody hacked the loose ball clear and it rebounded into the net off Filcroff's shin.

Either side of half-time, Fenton, Sherwood and Filcroff missed openings that might have put Blackburn beyond reach. Instead, Claridge, with a neat side-step, swept an angled shot beyond Flowers and, in the next instant, Heskey made it 3-1. Fenton got one back, but Wilson ended the season with a shot that went in off Kenna. Heskey having headed down from beyond the far post. Next season, I suspect, defences will increasingly come to fear Leicester's swift and powerful attacker.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — J. Kenna, I. Pearce, C. Hendry (sub: M. Butler, 80min), G. La Serna, T. Sherwood, W. McGivern, G. Filcroff, D. Duff, K. Gallacher, C. Fenton.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — F. Roling (sub: S. Wilson, 75), S. Prior (sub: M. Whitson, 25), M. Elliott, M. Grayson (sub: J. Lawrence, 25), C. Campbell, R. Kinnear, N. Lennon, S. Guppy — S. Claridge, E. Heskey.

Referee: S. Durrin

Villa and Souness are happy to share the plaudits

Aston Villa 1
Southampton 0

By MEL WEBB

PERHAPS there was too much at stake. Nerves twanged like violin strings as the sides strove for very different goals at opposite ends of the FA Carling Premiership table yesterday. The quality of the football suffered terribly, but, with the help of a couple of outside agencies, both clubs achieved their objectives.

Villa's narrow victory means that they will play in Europe next year for the sixth time since the last on English club was lifted in 1991. Southampton, meanwhile, have defied gravity yet again. How they do so year in and year out — next year will be their twentieth successive season in the top flight — is one of the more enduring conundrums.

Teams managed by Graeme Souness always attempt to play decent football, but Souness is a man whose principles are heavily underlain by a pronounced streak of pragmatism. His team-sheet revealed his intentions before a ball was kicked — no Le Tissier or Berkovic in the starting line-up; this was not going to be pretty.

Le Tissier seems more and more to have become a peripheral figure in the Southampton set-up. He fitted in and out of games as a substitute as Southampton put together a run of four victories and three draws in the seven games that preceded this one. Souness's message could not have been clearer: he had shouted it from on high: discipline first, the clever stuff second and last.

It was not clear which of those two qualities was uppermost in the mind of Dryden, the Southampton centre back,

at the moment of the all-important goal in the eleventh minute.

There seemed no more than a routine threat as Nelson overlapped from the back and sent in a low cross. There was nobody in a Villa shirt on the end of it; but Dryden still seemed to stretch every sinew to cut out the cross, and succeeded only in sliding the ball off his boot past Taylor in the Southampton goal.

Disaster, this over-used word of over-statement, rarely applies to something as gloriously trivial as sport, but to Souness and his cohorts on the Southampton bench it would have been dismissed as entirely too trifling a description for Dryden's error. Heads were hung, gloom abounded; Villa, meanwhile, acclaimed Nelson as if he had just won the lottery. In a funny sort of way, perhaps he had.

It was the sort of wildly prodigious gesture for which Southampton had become notorious. This, remember, is the side that beat Manchester United 6-3 at the end of October then lost 7-1 to Everton less than two weeks later. There is probably not another side in the Premiership capable of such inconsistency — mercury flows powerfully through the veins of the playing personnel at The Dell.

Southampton showed few signs of breaking down the five-man Villa defence but things changed when Le Tissier was brought on for Ostenstad. Le Tissier had been on the field for barely three minutes when his 35-yard free kick ricocheted off the wall and only a swooping save by Bosnich denied him his seventeenth goal of the season.

It was to be Southampton's last hurrah. Events at Elland Road and Selhurst Park had kept them up, and Dryden's act of charity had merely underscored Villa's return ticket to Europe. Aims achieved, targets hit: a satisfactory outcome from an unsatisfactory match.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Bosnich — F. Aston, M. A. — G. Souness, R. B. — N. Nelson, W. McGivern, G. Filcroff, D. Duff, K. Gallacher, C. Fenton.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — F. Roling (sub: S. Wilson, 75), S. Prior (sub: M. Whitson, 25), M. Elliott, M. Grayson (sub: J. Lawrence, 25), C. Campbell, R. Kinnear, N. Lennon, S. Guppy — S. Claridge, E. Heskey.

Referee: S. Durrin

ZOLA POWER! SPORT

CHELSEA'S SUPERSTAR SET TO IGNITE THE FINAL

TOTAL SPORT MAGAZINE, JUNE ISSUE OUT NOW

FOOTBALL: COVENTRY'S LAST-GASP HEROICS HELP TO RELEGATE NORTH EAST RIVALS AFTER DRAMATIC PREMIERSHIP DENOUEMENT

City savour sequel to the great escape

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Coventry City 2

By RUSSELL KIMMISON

COVENTRY City, the great escape artists of the FA Carling Premiership, did it again yesterday. For the ninth time during their 30-year unbroken run in the top flight of English football, they retained their status in the final match of the season. They needed to beat Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane and for results elsewhere to go their way. Win they did, and the other scorelines favoured them, too.

As Martin Bodenham, the referee, blew the final whistle, Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, first checked that his team was safe and then set off towards the fans, his legs working overtime. He bowed, he applauded, he jumped with glee. Were it not so heart-warming, it would have been comical.

"I had to check first that we were all right before I went running out on to the pitch and making a fool of myself," Strachan said. "We were so brave out there, mentally and physically, and I am just delighted for everyone involved with the club, past and present. When something like this happens, you think more of other people than yourself."

Stoked up to near fever pitch, Coventry had come out fighting from the off. The bruising tone was set as early as the second minute, when Carr was felled from behind by an excruciating late tackle from Burrows. Bodenham set his standards, too, by booking him.

Five others joined him in the opening 25 minutes, after a series of petty squabbles, wild challenges and confrontations. Richardson, Williams and Whelan were also cautioned as Coventry's burning desire threatened to spill over into warfare.

Amid the thunder, though, Coventry were still able to display the finesse, technique, the more considered skills under pressure. Huckerby was everywhere, disorientating the Tottenham defence with his teasing and taunting. Such bold endeavours were rewarded in the twelfth minute. Whelan delivered the ball invitingly into the area and Dublin glanced the most delicate of headers past Baard-

sen. Dublin, variously used by Strachan as a striker and

central defender, celebrated his thirteenth goal of the season with almost manic gusto.

Once the niggling had subsided, Coventry concentrated on the job. In the 38th minute, with the home defence again absent, they increased their lead. McAllister chipped over a corner from the right and Williams volleyed past Baardsen via a post. Five minutes later, though, Tottenham dredged up a response. Sutherland's 30-yard free kick beat the outstretched right hand of Ogrizovic, thudded against an upright and sat up for McVeigh to nod in at close range.

As news filtered in from around the country—the kick-off had been delayed by 15 minutes because of traffic congestion—Coventry began to realise their position. If they stayed ahead, they stayed up. Deane's goal for Leeds United against Middlesbrough enhanced that feeling, as did Euell's effort for Wimbledon against Sunderland. The supporters in sky blue, tuned in to their radios, cheered every snippet of information.

With 15 minutes left and Coventry showing signs of wilting, the commotion became clear. Sunderland and Middlesbrough were gone, consigned to the Premiership dustbin. If Coventry retained their lead, if not, Sunderland would be handed a last-minute reprieve. It was an awful 15 minutes. Burrows' petulance might have faded, but Huckerby's legs had gone and Strachan's voice had almost gone, too. Only the positioning and agility of Ogrizovic kept Coventry afloat as the seconds ticked by, slowly, agonisingly.

Twice Ogrizovic saved defiantly, magnificently, as Penn drove in a shot from only a few yards out; and then Dozell powered in a header from Fox's corner. Then it was over, Bodenham's concluding whistle ending the torment.

"I am desperate for a cup of tea and I just want to sit down," Strachan said, his composure having returned. Coventry had survived, again, at the death—as if it could have been any other way.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-4-2): E Baardsen; R Vega, J Soares, S Campbell; S Carr, R Fox, J Dozell, A Brown (sub: J Chapman, 22nd); D Edwards; E Richardson. P McVeigh (sub: N Penn, 75).

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic; P Miller, R Shaw, P Williams, D Gerrard; N Whelan (sub: E Jones, 28), K Richardson, J McAllister, P Ndlovu; D Huckerby, D Bodenham.

Referee: M Dickinson.



Strachan, the player-manager, shows the strain as Coventry fight for survival at White Hart Lane yesterday

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: FROM TITLE TO TRAPDOOR

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Qualified for
1	MANCHESTER UNITED	38	21	12	5	78	44	75	European Cup
2	NEWCASTLE UNITED	38	19	11	8	73	40	68	European Cup
3	ARSENAL	38	19	11	8	62	32	66	UEFA Cup
4	LIVERPOOL	38	19	11	8	62	37	66	UEFA Cup
5	ASTON VILLA	38	17	10	11	47	34	61	UEFA Cup
6	CHELSEA	38	16	11	11	58	55	59	Cup Winners' Cup*
7	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	38	14	15	9	50	51	57	
8	WIMBLEDON	38	15	11	12	49	46	56	
9	LEICESTER	38	12	11	15	46	54	47	
10	TOTTENHAM	38	13	7	18	44	51	46	
11	LEEDS UNITED	38	11	13	14	28	38	46	
12	DERBY COUNTY	38	11	13	14	45	58	46	
13	BLACKBURN	38	9	15	14	42	43	42	
14	WEST HAM	38	10	12	16	39	48	42	
15	EVERTON	38	10	12	16	44	57	42	
16	SOUTHAMPTON	38	10	11	17	50	68	41	
17	COVENTRY	38	9	14	15	38	54	41	
18	SUNDERLAND	38	10	10	18	35	53	40	
19	MIDDLESBROUGH	38	10	12	16	51	60	39	
20	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	38	6	16	16	31	59	34	

(Middlesbrough deducted 3 points)

*If winners of FA Cup

Sunderland go down in the shallow end

Wimbledon 1
Sunderland 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

SUNDERLAND go down. Any vestigial hope they had disappeared after 87 minutes when Dean Holdsworth beat Richard Ord on the left, drew another man, then slipped the ball across for young Jason Euell to drive his shot past Perez. Thus Euell averted having missed an easy chance minutes earlier, when he was set up by Ardley and Leonhardsen, only to pull his shot carelessly wide.

One had to feel sympathy for the thousands of Sunderland fans who had made the long trip to Selhurst Park from the North East. Clad mostly in the famous red and white stripes which their team, for some perverse reason, were not wearing in this game, they were still singing and cheering at the bitter end.

Truth to tell, Sunderland scarcely did enough to deserve anything more than a draw, which itself would not have guaranteed survival. They are a dull, functional team, with little but their grand tradition to recommend them. Next season, part of that will go when they move from their historic home of Roker Park.

Sunderland, you may remember, were the last of the original first division clubs to be relegated. But that was a long time ago, and since then, they have largely been struggling in the shallows.

Not that Wimbledon, on this occasion, looked much better. You might to some extent excuse the general mediocrity on the grounds of a bumpy pitch and a brisk wind. These factors may have had something to do with the goal-scoring opportunity the veteran Chris Waddle culpably missed early in the second half; thus missing the chance of enabling the team he once supported to stay in the top division.

When Niall Quinn touched the ball to Waddle, it came to his favoured left foot, but he snatched at the chance and, sadly, miskicked.

Overall, Sunderland made very few clear chances. After 80 minutes, when Craig Russell crossed accurately from the left, Paul Stewart, with the goal in his sights, headed over the bar, as Fear had done shortly beforehand at the other end.

Neither team ever truly struck a rhythm and not even Oyvind Leonhardsen, the Norwegian midfielder player, presumably playing his last game for Wimbledon, could impose himself on the play. It is reported that Leonhardsen

will shortly be leaving Wimbledon at a £4.5 million fee. However, Wimbledon can console themselves that they will still have Robbie Earle, who missed this match through injury.

Not only was there little movement or invention to enjoy, there was very little dramatic incident, either. Holdsworth, after 35 minutes, presaged Wimbledon's eventual goal when he put over a short cross from the left, but Ord, on that occasion, turned the ball behind.

Should Wimbledon have had a penalty, close to half-time? Leonhardsen wriggled round Darren Williams, who then appeared to fall on top of him, knocking him down. Dermot Gallagher, the referee, saw nothing wrong in this and Leonhardsen, to his credit, sprang up again to put in a dangerous cross.

No doubt next season, Wimbledon will again be substantially more than the sum of their parts. They had probably given a little too much in



Waddle: crucial miss

midweek against Liverpool, when they lapsed in the final furlong. They did not run out of steam yesterday. Nor, to their credit, did Sunderland, who did their best, with their severely limited talent and resources, at least to save a game which might in turn have been their own salvation.

The game was given a frivolous beginning when a blonde young striker ran on to the ground and performed a series of cartwheels, much to the joy of the 21,000 crowd. Perhaps after that, anticlimax was inevitable, and anticlimax was what we got.

With all deference to Wimbledon's achievements and Sunderland's sorrow, mediocrity in this Premiership has largely been the name of the game.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan; K Cunningham, C Perry, B McAllister, A Kinnear; N Ardley, V Jones (sub: P Fear, 60th); O Leonhardsen, M Gable (sub: E Broku, 71); J Euell, D Holdsworth.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez; J Hoar, R Ord, L Hewitt, M Gable; P Russell, C Russell, 76; K Ball, D Williams, C Waddle (sub: A Johnson, 79); P Stewart, N Quinn (sub: M Bridges, 51).

Referee: D Gallagher.

Redknapp's strike fails to lift gloom

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Liverpool 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT WAS the final ignominy for Liverpool in a match that perfectly encapsulated their desperate season. Needing victory to ensure second position in the FA Carling Premiership, and a place in the European Cup, they somehow contrived an almost surreal draw to finish fourth.

Like everything else they have done this season, the draw against Sheffield Wednesday was achieved under dramatic and ultimately disappointing circumstances. Trailing with only seven minutes remaining to a goal from the Wednesday substitute, O'Neill Donaldson, Liverpool were then handed one final chance in a season littered with missed opportunity.

Matt Clarke, the Wednesday goalkeeper, had only been on the pitch for ten minutes after replacing the injured Kevin Pressman, when the fates conspired to make his debut at least a memorable one. Almost his first act was to collect a through-ball from McManaman, but in doing so he overran his penalty area.

Most referees would deem such an error accidental and merely award the free kick. But not the fastidious David Elleray. He decided to dismiss Clarke and set up what was a quite remarkable final seven minutes. With Pressman already injured, Andy Booth, the Wednesday forward, went in goal.

His first task was to pick the resulting free kick out of the net, placed there by Jamie Redknapp who highted home a quite beautiful strike in a delicious arc from the 18-yard line.

As Wednesday kicked off there were still six minutes remaining, and a betting man would have placed his life's savings on Liverpool finding the goal that would have at least offered some small consolation for a season

that promised so much and delivered ultimately nothing. But Liverpool are perhaps the most frustrating side to watch in the Premiership and failed yet again when it seemed impossible.

They had chance, at least three in the final breathless minutes, but missed them all because of an insistence on being too clever and too premeditated when the situation, against ten men and with a dodgy goalkeeper, demanded a direct, blunt approach.

It was a typical Liverpool performance. They had appeared lost in a poor first half when pursuing the direct tactics that Roy Evans, the manager, has favoured in recent weeks. But at half-time he switched back to the more familiar passing methods, and in doing so removed Collymore. It was, perhaps, the definitive comment on his time at Anfield because he will surely be transferred in the summer.

Barnes, his replacement, made an immediate difference and had the 17-year-old Michael Owen accepted one of three straightforward chances, Liverpool would have had their place in the European Cup. Instead they floundered in front of goal, and Wednesday broke swiftly to again expose uncertain defending from the visitors and snatch an opening goal. It came after 75 minutes when Wright lost control on the edge of his own penalty area to allow Donaldson to steal in and smash a shot from close range past the unprotected James.

The goal was not enough to give Wednesday a UEFA Cup place given results elsewhere, but it was enough to consign Liverpool to a season of frustration and embarrassment and one that will surely ring the changes at Anfield during the summer.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2): K Pressman; M Gable, 76th; J Hoar, D Waller, D Sutherland, R Humphreys (sub: O Donaldson, 80); C Whitham, P Anderson, M Pennington; B Carson; A Smith, D Hird (sub: S Gable, 60).

LIVERPOOL (4-3-1-2): D Jones; B T Keane (sub: D Watson, 49), M Wright, N Ruddock (sub: S Harrison, 19), S Birmey, J McManaman, J Redknapp, J Thorne, S McManaman, S Collymore (sub: J Barnes, 49), M Owen.

Referee: D Elleray.

Liverpool left to look back on season full of empty promise

STEVE McMANAMAN



is haunted by a feeling of déjà vu

Another season draws to a close and, as painful as it is to reflect, the fact is that at Liverpool we have again failed to fulfil our promise.

What really hurts is that we are here again after another huge disappointment saying that we must do this and that to make the final step to win something. I can remember, I think, that after the Cup Final last season we said much the same thing.

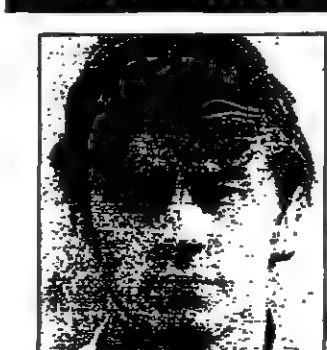
We have finished fourth in the league and managed to get to the semi-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup and still it hasn't been a good season at all. In fact, when you consider the opportunity we had, it has been an awful one. The league was there to be taken. I don't subscribe to this theory that Manchester United were hopelessly distracted by the European Cup because Juventus beat their league and are in the final of the cup. But I do think United were below the standards they have set in recent seasons.

They were not that good this season. And yet they have won the league comfortably and even drew three of their last few games. That is how easy it was for them and that is why there is such a huge sense of frustration at Anfield.

We know the league was winnable and we know that we lost it. There are no excuses, we were not beaten by great sides, we cannot hold our hands up and say there were teams too good for us. The fact is, we lost the important games because we played badly.

The irony, in the league, is that Liverpool performed well away from home this season. Our record was quite impressive. But we dropped what you would normally consider to be the banker points at home. Liverpool are usually excellent at ensuring those points, traditionally we are very strong in those games. The frustrating fact is, had we collected those banker points as we should have done, we would be

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champions now. It was the same in the cup competitions.

In Europe we weren't hampered by a much better side, we played badly and paid the penalty in the first leg of the semi-final in France when it was clear in the second leg that we should have had the beating of Paris Saint-Germain.

The domestic competitions were the same. We let ourselves down and that is something we cannot hide from. Our fans demand success and next season we have to deliver it.

There will be some changes to this Liverpool side in order to achieve that. We had our opportunity and didn't take it and there could well be three or four new faces brought in next season to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

While I bemoan Liverpool's failings, I don't support the widely held assertion that it is evidence of a drop in quality in the FA Carling Premiership. OK, Manchester United won the title with seven fewer points than last season, but I believe that is because there is a general increase in quality.

The teams at the bottom have benefited from the money generated within football and they have used the revenue to bring in better quality players. Look at Coventry City, West Ham United and Southampton. They have spent a lot of money to improve their squads.

While the sides at the bottom are undoubtedly better, it is harder for the teams at the top to improve by an equal amount, because while they have money available, their squads cannot be bettered so readily. When you already have the top players it is harder to find new ones who will increase standards — especially when all the top sides in Europe are competing for those players. You therefore get a natural narrowing of standards between top and bottom.

But I think the experience of Liverpool and Manchester United in Europe suggests that the top teams are still improving. We should have beaten Paris to reach the final and Manchester United were very unlucky indeed not to reach the final of the European Cup. England could — and should — have had two European finalists and that is surely a sign of high quality.

While all that is a defence of English football, I do have one major concern about our game. The influx of foreign players has reached such epidemic proportions that I can hardly think of an English player bought by a Premiership club during the entire season.

There are around 300 foreigners playing in Britain now and, during the summer, I can only see that figure increasing significantly. Where nobody can argue with the purchase of players such as Zola and Jurisich, it is worrying that we are also importing so many journeymen.

If English football is to keep improving, then we must import only the best — and keep producing players of the highest quality of our own.

Chelsea ignore loss of Grodas

Everton 1
Chelsea 2

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

DESPITE a late flurry after a Nick Barnby goal, Everton went down to a superb passing display by a Chelsea team who were a man short for most of the match after the dismissal of Frode Grodas, their goalkeeper. "It was an excellent performance," Rudd Gullitt, the Chelsea manager, said. "We created so many chances."

There was, however, a distinct end-of-term feeling at the former School of Science. There were absences — Unsworth, Short, Phelan, Hincliffe, a whole defence. There were departures to think about, too — Dave Watson was relinquishing the role of player-manager and even Goodison Park itself could be on the way out in favour of a new 60,000-seat stadium, according to a document going the rounds. There were possible new arrivals too — such as Bobby Robson and Jürgen Klinsmann, who might or might not be joining Everton after the Summer holidays.

Probably not, if anyone sends them a tape of the first hour or so of this game. Chelsea were ahead after only 15 minutes, when Wise's chip from the left drifted over the head of Southall and dropped inside the post. Six minutes later, Ferguson, although looking offside, was allowed to gallop menacingly through only to be brought down by Grodas a yard outside the Chelsea area. Grodas was sent off by Peter Jones, the referee, which in turn meant the

departure of Vialli in favour of the substitute keeper, Hitchcock.

Chelsea, however, made light of the disadvantage. Everton pressed, but Chelsea's fast breaks, accurate passing and movement off the ball made the home team look as if they, not the visitors, were outnumbered. It was well deserved when Di Matteo put Chelsea further ahead with a rare header from a cross by Petrescu.

The second half was in danger of turning into a passing exhibition by the FA Cup finalists, their fans taunting Everton with shouts of "Can we play you every week?" The pre-Wembley stroll only looked likely to be disturbed by a lack of concentration or injury. Hughes was withdrawn as a precaution after a knock on the ankle and Di Matteo's dying swan impersonation raised momentary concern, but he soldiered bravely on, only to miss a superb chance after Petrescu's pass put him through on goal.

It was nearly a costly failure. Within 30 seconds, Barnby scored after Hitchcock had parried Watson's header. The Chelsea defence rocked thereafter whenever the ball was in the air, Hitchcock continually punching uncertainly, but Everton could not find an equaliser; a turn and low shot passed the post by Cada Marner, a substitute, was as close as they came.

EVERTON (3-1-4-2): N Southall; R Durno, D Watson, M Bait; E Barnett; M Horinger; C Thomson (sub: D Cada Marner, 46th); D Speed, J Hills; D Ferguson, N Barnby.

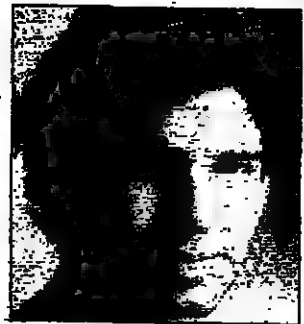
CHELSEA (4-4-2): F Grodas; F Sinclair, F Latchford, S Clarke, S Mingo; D Petrescu, E Newton, P Di Matteo (sub: P Barry, 6th); D Wise; M Hughes (sub: M Nicol, 60); G Vialli (sub: K Hitchcock, 21).

Referee: P Jones.

Barcelona coach faces uncertain future despite momentous victory

Robson's pride may not prevent his fall

OLIVER HOLT



Football Correspondent

The well-heeled supporters in their sharp suits clapped him when he walked in to the hotel bar. The women stared through the whorls of cigar smoke, a waiter brought him an orange juice and, at the bar, two or three more started chanting his name.

Lean and hungry men, the type who have called for his head and waved their white handkerchiefs as a sign of disrespect, fawned over Bobby Robson and asked to have their pictures taken with him. He indulged them, then made his way to where his son, Mark, was sitting quietly with a group of friends from England.

The city could have been Bobby Robson's on Saturday night. His Barcelona team had just beaten Real Madrid in a match that is almost as important to their fanatical supporters as the championship itself. Yet Robson seemed curiously deflated. Sunken-eyed and robbed suddenly of the adrenalin that had so invigorated him in the build-up to victory, he chatted for 15 minutes or so. When midnight had gone, he pressed some hands into his and left.

He said that he was elated, that there was euphoria welling up within him, that he was proud of what his players had achieved when they struck such a great blow for Barcelona's pride with the 1-0 win in front of 115,000 in the Nou Camp, a victory that cut Real's lead to a more respectable five points. Outwardly, though, he seemed subdued by a deep melancholy that went beyond the normal reaction to 90 minutes of living on his nerves in one of the most high-pressure matches of his career. The devil-may-care attitude that he had adopted had been replaced with a great weariness.

Part of it was relief. He knew how much ridicule, how much bile, would have been heaped upon him if



Robson makes his point at the Nou Camp, where supporters acclaimed a 1-0 win over Real Madrid

Real had managed to beat Barcelona in the Nou Camp for the first time in 14 years. "If we had lost here today," he said, "they would have been sticking knives in me now."

The rest of it, though, was a mixture of exhaustion at the treatment he has had from the club president, Josep Lluís Núñez — treatment that Robson is too honourable to call dishonourable — and a creeping realisation of the terrible beauty of a club that he may be forced to leave.

Barcelona has been like a siren's song for Robson, a job of almost mystical allure. Despite all his success this season — the fact that he has taken Barcelona to the Cup

Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam and the Spanish Cup final, and that the Catalan club has beaten Real in two of the four league and cup games they have played this season — and lost only once — the strong suspicion is still that he will be replaced when the season ends next month.

Persistent rumours and muttered half-admissions from club officials say that Louis van Gaal, the outgoing Ajax coach, will join the club soon, but when Robson asks Núñez for clarification of his position, whether the second year of his two-year contract will be honoured, he is lobbed off with glib assurances.

After the game on Saturday night,

a female Dutch journalist tried to grill him about his future, about his relationship with Núñez and whether he had grown exasperated. "I think she must have been Louis van Gaal's brother," Robson said when she finally took her leave.

"This is a wonderful club, a fantastic club, but football is a strange game and this is a strange club. They are talking about a new management structure here, they have that in their head. They should discuss it with me and I will tell them about structure."

"I do not fight Núñez. I do not have dinner with him. I do not go on holiday with him. I just spoke to him for five minutes after the game and

he is very happy, as we all are. We are all proud of the players and the effort they put in tonight."

Robson's position, which at any rational club would not just be safe but under lock and key, may become clearer, and probably bleaker, after the match in Rotterdam on Wednesday, when Núñez may dispense with pretence. Victory over Paris Saint-Germain, though, would make it harder for Núñez to be disloyal to the man who stayed loyal to him in the face of a hairy-tale offer from Newcastle United, Everton and their chairman, Peter Johnson, are waiting anxiously in the wings, a haven in the storm, but, despite everything, anything else pales besides Barcelona for Robson. After Saturday night, the pride, the passion, the sound, the fury, it was easy to see why.

It was theatre, raw and unrehearsed, full of hate and vitriol and the worst kind of racism towards Roberto Carlos, the Real left back. Real took the field first, to a howling, wailing cacophony of boos and had the temerity to run to the centre circle and wave to the crowd. When Barcelona appeared, a sea of red-and-blue flags, for Catalonia, were raised. The roars increased when first Giovanni, then Nadal, were carried from the pitch after fierce tackles by Roberto Carlos. The fans showed their displeasure by ripping the poles from their flags and hurling them on to the pitch.

The match was not a classic. It was too important for that. But in the speed and power of the world's best footballer, Ronaldo, the running and quick-thinking of Figo on the left flank and, above all, the artistry and exuberance of De la Peña in midfield, there were glimpses of the stimulation that Robson gets from coaching this team, the excitement it might be hard to reproduce at somewhere such as Everton.

The only goal came in injury time at the end of the first half, when Figo was brought down by Roberto Carlos. Ronaldo, valued now at £30 million, was still dazed from a clash of heads, but insisted on taking the penalty. He hit it lamely — "like my wife would kick it", Robson said — but when Illgner pushed it out, Figo reacted quickest and turned it back to Ronaldo, who sidefooted it in.

Robson, though, had his mind on the days and weeks ahead and the manoeuvrings of Núñez. "When they do something I do not agree with," he said, "I will decide what to do with my life. If it is in the imminent future, I will probably take another job." Everton, Celtic and anyone else contemplating an advertisement in the situations vacant columns should take note.

Hibernian left to continue survival fight

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

THE season has brought Hibernian 13 new players, three managers and a shortage of points. Having finished ninth, their status as members of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, which has lasted for 16 years, will be at risk in a two-legged play-off against Airdrieonians, the runners-up in the first division.

Most footballers would prefer a spot of crocodile wrestling to facing Airdrie in a knockout event. Alex MacDonald's team may not sink their teeth into opponents, but there is always a biting competitiveness about them, as appearances in the Scottish Cup finals of 1992 and 1995 demonstrate.

Hibernian have a particularly poor record against Airdrie. Supporters, though, will hardly be poring over those statistics, not while their emotions remain engulfed by the anticlimax of Saturday.

At Stark's Park, Hibernian equalised in the 26th minute and proceeded to a tame 1-1 draw against Raith Rovers. It seemed, for a time, that an unheroic escape had been contrived. Motherwell and Kilmarnock were behind in their home matches and, if either had lost, Hibernian would have been safe, but both eventually took a point, ensuring that the Edinburgh club finished behind Motherwell on goal difference.

The only public disagreement among Hibernian staff then saw individuals vying for the lion's share of the blame. The spectacle of men jostling one another in the attempt to face facts did, at least, speak well of the candour at Easter Road. Darren Jackson, the Scotland forward, was insistent that it was all the fault of the players. Jim Duffy, the Hibernian manager, felt that the greatest responsibility lay with him.

Since his appointment at the end of last year, just three league games have been won. Duffy further implicated himself by pointing out that he has made half a dozen signings. The newcomers have extended the squad without deepening its quality. Only one of the six, Shaun Dennis, was bought from a premier division club — Raith — and even they are now relegated.

Chic Charnley, Jamie McQuilken, David Elliot, Lee Power and Paul Tosh all arrived from the first division. Hibernian will spend the next few days reminding themselves that they have better players than Airdrie and thus should remove the most pressing worries by simply beating them. In the longer term, though, Hibernian must demonstrate that they have some notion of how the club might be regenerated.

The owner, Tom Farmer, rescued Hibernian from bankruptcy in 1991, but agrees that he has no interest in football. He does not exercise power in day-to-day affairs, and since no one else possesses his authority, there is always a risk of a leadership vacuum.

Supporters are understandably, engrossed by rumours of a takeover. They may also cast covetous glances at the other side of Edinburgh. Heart of Midlothian's financial wounds seem to be healing, with £6 million raised through a share issue, and they are established among the stronger clubs.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, observed wryly that his counterpart at Tynecastle, Jim Jefferies, is the only premier division manager not to have heard calls for his sacking this year.

Defeat on Saturday for Rangers, the champions, hardly mattered, and the Scottish football writers' player of the year, Brian Laudrup, did not even take part, but Hearts' 3-1 victory was momentous for John Robertson. By scoring twice, he took his tally of league goals to 208, creating a club record as he moved clear of the figure of 206, set by Jimmy Wardhaugh. Hibernian are left to hope that they do not make their own little piece of history in 1997, by dropping out of the top flight.

Freedman stars at the Palace

Crystal Palace 3
Wolverhampton W 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

DOUGIE FREEDMAN: The Story. Were it translated on to the silver screen this week, it might well vie for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. The script may lack the usual prerequisite ingredients of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll but it is irresistible nonetheless. It is a tale of angst, pent-up emotion and shame; drama, sudden vindication yet ultimate let-down.

Scene one: Freedman falls out of favour with Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, and is sentenced to

the substitutes' bench seven times in nine matches. He keeps quiet, bides his time and vows to do better.

Scene two: He is recalled to the side, for the home game against Port Vale on May 4, but is sent off midway through the second half, for the first time in his career, for landing a right hook on Gareth Griffiths, the Vale defender.

Scene three: He is back on the bench at Selhurst Park on Saturday, for the first leg of the Nationwide League first division play-off semi-final against Wolverhampton Wanderers, but is brought on with 17 minutes remaining and scores two goals.

Scene four: Freedman signs autographs for his fans, in the

Selhurst Park car park, and reflects on his altercation with Griffiths. If Palace go on to reach the play-off final, having successfully negotiated the return leg against Wolves at Molineux on Wednesday, he will not play at Wembley because of suspension.

"It was a silly thing to do, it was very out of character for me," he said. "I'd been sitting on the bench for about six weeks and perhaps all the frustration had built up inside me. I might have to pay a very heavy price, if we go on to reach Wembley, but I'll still be there, sitting and cheering the lads on."

Freedman's goals, taking his tally to 14 for the season, were delightfully taken. Palace already led 1-0, courtesy of a firm, downward header from Shipperley, when he

lashed in a dipping, left-footed volley past the stranded Stowell.

Though Smith immediately reduced the gap, with his first goal for Wolves, Freedman responded with another gem — a delicate, right-footed lob as Smith and his team-mates appealed in vain for an offside decision.

That the last three goals were compressed into the final three minutes, producing a thunderous climax, created a false impression after an essentially dull, tactically uninspiring and often ragged encounter. If either club genuinely possesses FA Carling Premiership credentials, they were mysteriously withholding them from public view.

Molineux should witness better, when Wolves, the perennial underachievers, bear down on their prey and whip the partisan Black Country hordes into a frenzy. It will be a night for stout hearts in the Palace defence, when the will to survive will transcend all other qualities.

"We know we can get the two goals back," Keith Curle, the Wolves defender, said. "We'll stoke up the atmosphere. Let's get it on."

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): C. Nash — M. Edwards, A. Roberts, A. Longman, D. Gordon — G. Davies, D. Hopkin, R. Houghton (sub: C. West, 62min), S. Rodger — B. Dyer (sub: D. Frazer, 78), N. Shipperley.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M. Stowell — A. Williams, M. Allana, K. Curle — J. Smith, S. Osborn, D. Ferguson, G. Thomas, A. Thompson — S. Bul (sub: D. Foley, 84), I. Roberts.
Referee: N. Barry.

Stockwell finds the pressure point

Sheffield United 1
Ipswich Town 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

AS A concept, there is a case to be made for the play-offs. But why bother with all this football business, given that the chances of getting an exciting game are about as high as getting a Tory government?

The point is, these matches are such tense affairs and have so much at stake that it seems a little unfair on the participants. Promotion to the FA Carling Premiership is such a massive prize in these television-sponsored days

that two games is hardly the way to decide the issue.

It creates untold pressures and that is why rumours were spreading around Bramall Lane, where the first leg of the Nationwide League first division play-off was staged on Saturday, that Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, would be under threat if his side ultimately failed to beat Ipswich Town.

It was hardly a classic, nerves jangling in a game that never took off. The Ipswich equaliser was a perfect illustration, the raw nerve ends of the United defence exposed by a pass from Sowgood after 78 minutes that found Stockwell unmarked in the penalty

area. He waltzed around defender and goalkeeper and, with the equaliser, the visitors had the advantage.

Before that moment United seemed likely to benefit from some nervous finishing by their opponents as they accepted a valuable lead. Jan-Aage Fjortoft showed how it was done by gliding past Swales to beat Wright, the Ipswich goalkeeper, at his near post after 41 minutes.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A. Kelly — M. Ward, C. Tier, D. Holdsworth, N. Nelson — D. White (sub: C. O'Shea, 66min), D. Houghton, N. Henry, D. Wharmby — J. A. Fjortoft, P. Naisbitt (sub: G. Taylor, 75).
IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): R. Wright — G. Usherbrook, C. Swales, A. Vassman, M. Tarozo — M. Stockwell, G. Williams, S. Sedgley, K. Dyer — J. Sowgood, N. Gregory (sub: N. Gudmundsson, 67).
Referee: R. Pearson.

Whitby's endeavour brings due reward

North Ferriby United 0
Whitby Town 3

By WALTER GAMMIE

THIS was the weekend when the boat came in for Whitby. As the masses flocked to the town to view the replica of the Endeavour, 6,500 townspeople came to Wembley, watched Whitby Town sail off with the FA Carlsberg Vase and returned happily to take their part in the celebrations.

If North Ferriby's attractive approach play was ill-served by surprising toothlessness round the penalty area and no real

justice, nobody would wish to deny Whitby their triumph.

Already crowned as the Federation Brewery Northern League champions, Whitby have set aside recent tribulations — being denied a place in the UniBond League three years ago, the collapse of a floodlight pylon — and performed with purpose and spirit under Harry Dunn.

Their experienced and clear-sighted manager might rely on a bunch of eight 30-year-olds but their enthusiasm belied their age. Take David Logan, 33, who scored their first goal in the 28th minute, finding the roof of the net with a swing of his sweet left foot

after Robinson returned a shot by Hodgson that rebounded off the angle of post and bar.

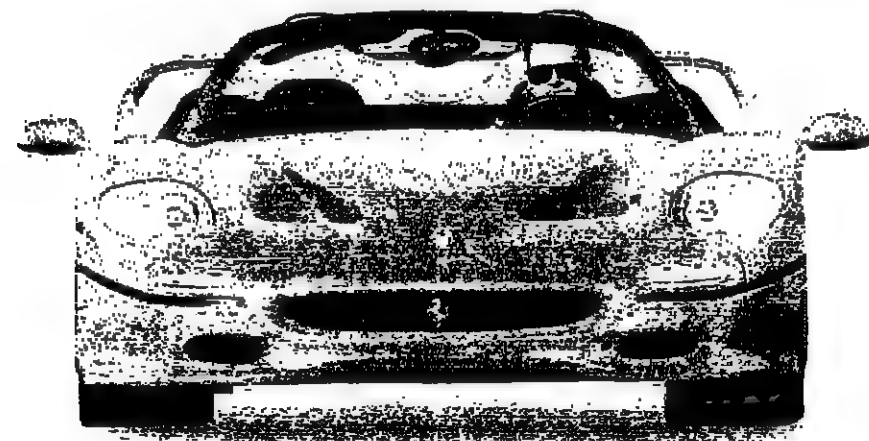
Logan started at Whitby at 17, before embarking on a Football League career with Mansfield Town, Northampton Town, Halifax Town, Stockport County and Scarborough that he drew to a close when offered a job as a telephone engineer. Having returned to square one, only then did he reach "the pinnacle" of his career — scoring at Wembley.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Andy Toman, 35, another football wanderer, now Football in the Community officer at Bishop Auckland.

Together with Cook, he fashioned the all-important second goal, a cross-shot thumped in by Williams.

Then, as the sun broke through, Toman enjoyed a golden moment. Ferociously volleying the ball home from a tight angle after Sharp, under pressure, failed to fist Pirman's cross to safety. Whitby were home and dry.

NORTH FERRIBY UNITED (4-4-2): P. Sharp — J. Dessey, J. Walmsley, S. Brinkman, A. Smith — K. Harrison (sub: J. Home, 64min), M. Smith, D. Phillips (sub: S. Miller, 59), M. Tansell — A. Flaxall, D. Francis (sub: P. Newman, 75).
WHITBY TOWN (3-5-2): D. Carrabell — D. Goodrich, L. Pearson, M. Cook — G. Williams, N. Hodgson, A. Toman (sub: S. Pyle, 84), K. Goodrich (sub: J. Gormick, 78), D. Logan — P. Pirman (sub: M. Hall, 66), G. Robinson.
Referee: G. Pol.



You either know where you're going...



...or you don't.

car
MAGAZINE

You've either got it...

...or you haven't.

RACING: SEEBE'S GALLANT SECOND IN POULICHES IS BEST RETURN FOR BRITISH RAIDERS

Home team puts challengers in shade

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
AT LONGCHAMP

A STRONG British challenge on two French classics yielded precious little at Longchamp yesterday when Always Loyal bettered the travelling triumvirate of Seebie, Red Camellia and Dances With Dreams in the Poule d'Essai des Poulaches. And the Michael Stoute-trained Yaliateenee, strongly fancied for the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, disappointed in fourth behind the impressive Daylam.

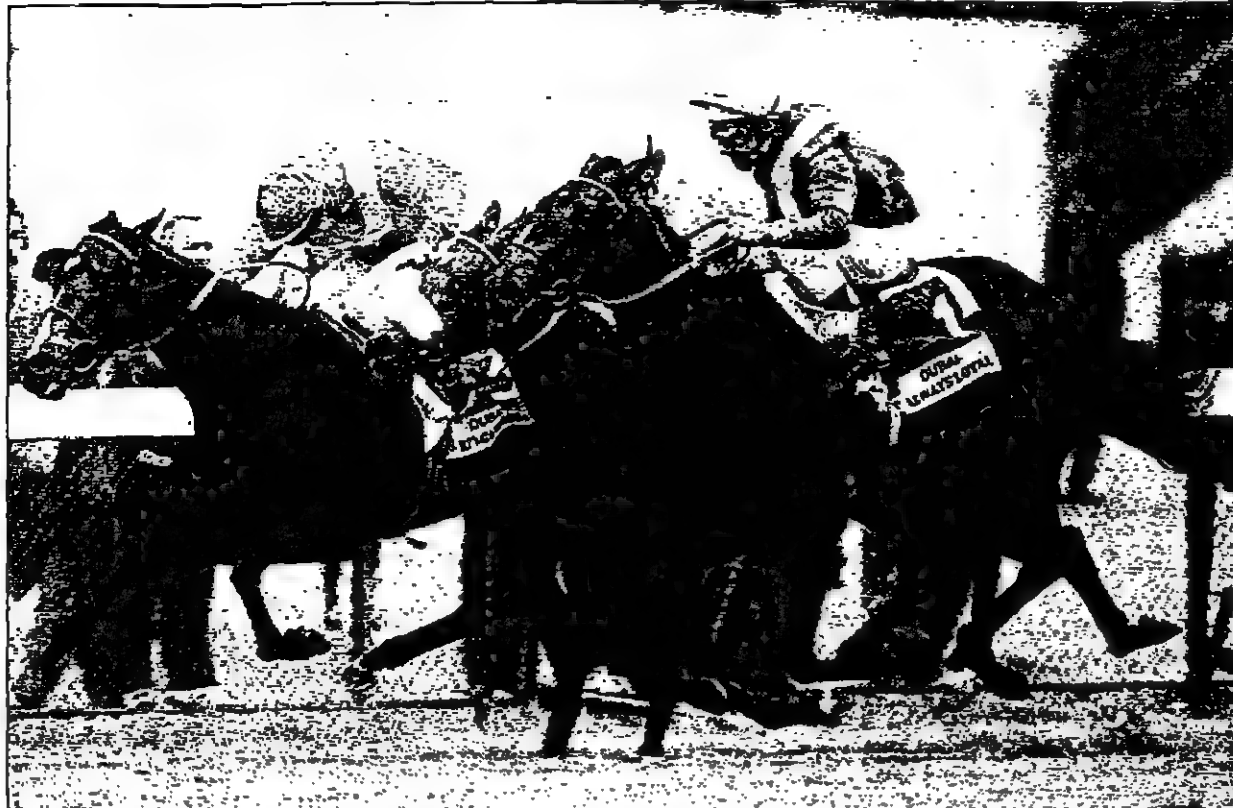
Yaliateenee established his credentials when mastering

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PALO BLANCO
(2.45 Redcar)
Next best: Mengaab
(4.15 Redcar)

subsequent 2,000 Guinees runner-up Revenche at Newbury last month. But the son of Sadler's Wells found himself at the head of affairs from the outset, with Richard Quinn seemingly determined to restrain the free-running colt. Frankie Dettori, riding Bahama Bounty, was in a similar predicament and the pair had effectively compromised their chances by halfway.

Their tribulations proved academic. Daylam, settled last of the six-strong field, was brought into the straight before anything down his opponents in the manner of a top-class miler. He became the eighth Poulain winner for his owner, the Aga Khan, who was quick to dampen specu-



Always Loyal, nearside, denies Seebie, noseband, and Red Camellia in the Poule d'Essai des Poulaches at Longchamp

lating surrounding a possible Derby bid. The Aga Khan was emphatic Daylam's maximum range would be ten furlongs. "He ran over ten furlongs at the end of last year and was beaten in the last 100 metres."

The suspicion was that Always Loyal, who gained a sixth Poulache victory for her trainer, Clive Cox, landed a soft renewal of the fillet's classic. She conjured a rousing finish, prompting Mme Head

— who gained consolation for Pas De Repense's 1,000 Guinees eclipse at Newmarket — to attribute the victory to raw courage. Certainly the filly responded with relish when called to account.

It looked as though Red Camellia's forcing tactics would pay dividends halfway down the home straight, but her trainer, Mark Prescott, later admitted he never raised a shout. "We came here knowing she didn't really stay a

mile," he said. "It was mission accomplished to finish third." Then, for a few strides, Seebie threatened to take advantage of Red Camellia's late. She may even have headed Always Loyal but Freddie Head would not be denied. "She ran a cracking race," Seebie's trainer, Ian Balding, said. "She was coming back all the time."

Dances With Dreams, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, trailed the field before closing late for fourth but Nightbird and Star Profile, the Godolphin-trained duo, failed to strike a meaningful blow.

Seebie eventually faded by a head but Always Loyal, who had been racing out this way, has greater scope to progress. "In her trial she didn't know what to do when Freddie asked her to sprint," Mme Head said. "Today was different and she showed she is very brave."

Always Loyal now heads for the Prix de Diane (French Oaks). The disappointment of the race was Mousie Glance, who never threatened before folding tamely into sixth.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER
6.00 Orange Order, 8.30 Tommy Tortoise, 7.00 Farewell My Love, 7.30 Roughtaine, 8.00 Barningham Blade, 8.30 Farhan.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Kroono.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.00 FIFIELD CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,308; 1m 6yd) (18 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 MATHURAN 11 (10) M Mathur 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
17 (26) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
18 (27) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

6.30 STORACALL HANDICAP

(£3,400; 1m 3f) (20 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
17 (26) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
18 (27) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

7.00 BEALE DOBBIE & CO HANDICAP

(£3,400; 1m 3f) (20 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
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11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
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15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
17 (26) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
18 (27) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Bath
2.00 (11) 1 KING ALEX 11 (10) K Alex 4-4-2
3.00 (12) 2 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
4.00 (13) 3 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
5.00 (14) 4 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
6.00 (15) 5 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
7.00 (16) 6 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
8.00 (17) 7 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
9.00 (18) 8 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
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13.00 (22) 12 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
14.00 (23) 13 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
15.00 (24) 14 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
16.00 (25) 15 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
17.00 (26) 16 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
18.00 (27) 17 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2

Beverley

2.00 (11) 1 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
3.00 (12) 2 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
4.00 (13) 3 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
5.00 (14) 4 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
6.00 (15) 5 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
7.00 (16) 6 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
8.00 (17) 7 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
9.00 (18) 8 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
10.00 (19) 9 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
11.00 (20) 10 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
12.00 (21) 11 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
13.00 (22) 12 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
14.00 (23) 13 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
15.00 (24) 14 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
16.00 (25) 15 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
17.00 (26) 16 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2
18.00 (27) 17 LINDSEY 11 (10) L Lindsey 4-4-2

7.30 ROBERT WALTERS LIMITED

STAKES (£3,643; 1m 2f) (13 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

8.00 BONUSPRINT CONDITIONS STAKES

(£2,400; 1m 2f) (17 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
17 (26) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

8.30 BULLBROOK MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN

STAKES (£2,400; 1m 2f) (16 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER
6.00 Orange Order, 8.30 Tommy Tortoise, 7.00 Farewell My Love, 7.30 Roughtaine, 8.00 Barningham Blade, 8.30 Farhan.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Kroono.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER
6.00 Orange Order, 8.30 Tommy Tortoise, 7.00 Farewell My Love, 7.30 Roughtaine, 8.00 Barningham Blade, 8.30 Farhan.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Kroono.

Wolverhampton

2.00 (11) 1 KING ALEX 11 (10) K Alex 4-4-2
3.00 (12) 2 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
4.00 (13) 3 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
5.00 (14) 4 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
6.00 (15) 5 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
7.00 (16) 6 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
8.00 (17) 7 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
9.00 (18) 8 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
10.00 (19) 9 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
11.00 (20) 10 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
12.00 (21) 11 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
13.00 (22) 12 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
14.00 (23) 13 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
15.00 (24) 14 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
16.00 (25) 15 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
17.00 (26) 16 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
18.00 (27) 17 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
6.00 Orange Order, 8.30 Tommy Tortoise, 7.00 Farewell My Love, 7.30 Roughtaine, 8.00 Barningham Blade, 8.30 Farhan.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Kroono.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 SPAIN CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,227; 1m 2f) (13 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

2.30 ITALY HANDICAP

(£2,227; 1m 2f) (16 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

3.00 SPAIN CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,227; 1m 2f) (16 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
16 (25) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER
6.00 Orange Order, 8.30 Tommy Tortoise, 7.00 Farewell My Love, 7.30 Roughtaine, 8.00 Barningham Blade, 8.30 Farhan.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 8.30 Kroono.

TOWCESTER

2.00 (11) 1 KING ALEX 11 (10) K Alex 4-4-2
3.00 (12) 2 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
4.00 (13) 3 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
5.00 (14) 4 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
6.00 (15) 5 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
7.00 (16) 6 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
8.00 (17) 7 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
9.00 (18) 8 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
10.00 (19) 9 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
11.00 (20) 10 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
12.00 (21) 11 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
13.00 (22) 12 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
14.00 (23) 13 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
15.00 (24) 14 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
16.00 (25) 15 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
17.00 (26) 16 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2
18.00 (27) 17 TANTALUS 11 (10) T Tantalus 4-4-2

3.30 FRANCE FILLES HANDICAP

(£2,227; 1m 2f) (15 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
14 (23) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
15 (24) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

4.00 SWEDEN MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

(£2,227; 1m 2f) (13 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

4.30 DENMARK FILLES SELLING STAKES

(£2,227; 1m 2f) (13 runners)
1 (10) 60-00 TOMMY TORTOISE 11 (10) T Tortoise 4-4-2
2 (11) 51-00 DANCE DANCE 11 (10) D Dance 4-4-2
3 (12) 40-00 SOUTHERN 11 (10) S South 4-4-2
4 (13) 30-00 CLASSIC 11 (10) C Classic 4-4-2
5 (14) 20-00 GOLD FATHER 11 (10) G Father 4-4-2
6 (15) 10-00 HENRY 11 (10) H Henry 4-4-2
7 (16) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
8 (17) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
9 (18) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
10 (19) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
11 (20) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
12 (21) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2
13 (22) 00-00 FIFIELD 11 (10) F Fife 4-4-2

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King's no longer rule waves in water polo

By JOHN GOODBODY

NO SCHOOL has been so dominant in water polo in recent years as King's, Grantham. Coached by Jim Caulfield, a martinet in the pool but a charming man away from it, King's have usually been supreme in the national schools championships.

In the under-19 event they won five of the eight titles up to 1996. In the under-16 agegroup King's won nine times in the 13 years up to 1996.

Caulfield said: "The standard is getting better every year. I know how Alex Ferguson feels. Still, I get a buzz from these competitions. The adrenalin starts pumping. It's a drug but at least I sleep better than I used to do." He admitted that he "took his frustration out in a vocal sort of way".

He can say that again. His cajoling and criticism on the side of the pool clearly motivates his teams. He wants to win so much that the boys inevitably respond. They want to win for themselves but also for him. It gives them extra incentive. Caulfield said: "One boy said to me that the day I stop shouting is the day I will stop coaching. He was probably right."

"The hardest thing is to keep the consistency. You try to get everyone sharp and ready on the same day. Sometimes not everyone is firing on all cylinders."

In the under-16 event at Putney on Saturday, King's lost 9-3 to Queen Elizabeth. Barnett, who went on to take the title by beating Trinity, Croydon, 19-6 in the final.

In the under-19 competition King's faced Haberdashers' Aske's, Epsom.



IN SCHOOLS

their opponents in this final in the previous two years. For Trevor Hyde, the Haberdashers' coach, who began these championships 21 years ago, it was the moment for which he had been waiting.

Haberdashers' had never won the title but this year had a team bristling with talent, including James Kattan and Matthew Irish, both of whom have captained the England junior team, and two national trialists, Alex Shaw and Ashley Blake. The final was an epic, with John Allan, of the City of London School, commenting: "It was a real showcase for the sport."

There was never more than two goals between the teams. They were 5-5 at half-time, 9-9 at full time, 10-10 after one period of extra time and 11-11 at the end of extra time. The teams then went into sudden death and Haberdashers' scored the decisive goal to take the title 12-11. Hyde said: "Jim is the person I look up to most in coaching water polo. It was a measure of the man that he was the first to congratulate our captain."

Haberdashers' have five water polo teams. Hyde said: "It is not difficult to interest boys in the game but it is harder to develop an interest than, say, in football or rugby, which are often on television and tactics and techniques are analysed. That is a learning environment for a boy."

Yet, water polo, he said, has many advantages as a sport. "Most activities are about athletic prowess on the land. Water polo is about athletic prowess under water."

Many natural ball players are poor swimmers and vice versa, so the sport even out the differing requirements.

Allan said: "A lot of good swimmers are not good water polo players. They swim into corners and get lost." Both he and Hyde agree that a requisite is to be a good strategist and to be able to see what is happening around you through flailing arms, splashing water and with a restricted vision because the head is only just above the water.

Although the sport is renowned for its aggressive toughness, the water, explained Hyde, is a "friendly environment", pointing out that "you do not get collisions of bones on a frozen pitch." He has seen only six serious accidents in 32 years involved in the sport: Allan, just two during his 22 years.

But, Hyde added, water polo is also a hard sport. "You cannot breathe when you want to," he said. "Often, just as you are about to breathe, another tackle comes in."

Results, page 40



City of London and Trinity, Croydon, wage battle at Putney

Withdrawal symptoms on horizon

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

The tobacco companies will be nervously monitoring the Queen's Speech this week to learn the full extent of the Government's proposed advertising ban. The industry is under siege, facing smoking-related damages cases in Britain and the United States, and most Western governments are increasing advertising and marketing restrictions.

In recent years, sport sponsorship has become one of the most important forms of brand-building for the tobacco companies faced with restrictions on other forms of advertising. Sports as diverse as snooker and motor racing have come to rely heavily on tobacco money.

Labour appears to have moved away from a complete ban on tobacco sport sponsorship, but Tony Banks, the new Minister for Sport, is well known for his opposition to tobacco-company involvement in sport. Even limited restrictions, which stop short of a total ban, could force the tobacco industry out of sport if it decides that its product will no longer be reaching its target audience.

British tobacco companies spend £8 million a year on sport — about 20 per cent of their marketing budget. This only represents about 3 per cent of all sporting sponsorship, but it is highly concentrated on a number of smaller sports and the impact of its withdrawal could be devastating.

The highest-profile beneficiary of tobacco money is Formula One motor racing. Six of the 12 race teams have substantial tobacco backing. A British ban on advertising is unlikely to end tobacco sponsorship of Formula One, but it could lead to the cancellation of races in this country.

Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's supreme, has already revealed that he is looking to expand the sport into Asia-Pacific — partly to win new followers, but also to avoid restrictions on tobacco sponsorship. Europe is likely to lose some of its races with the French Grand Prix, where restrictions are especially tough, favourite to disappear first. If Britain follows the French lead, Ecclestone would have few qualms about removing the British Grand Prix from the Formula One fixture list.

However, the withdrawal of tobacco sponsorship could lead to some UK-based sports falling into long-term decline. The Imperial Tobacco Group, best-known for its Regal and Embassy cigarettes, has supported snooker events for 22 years and the snooker authorities are convinced that without this backing the sport would never have achieved its high profile. The company has also been a big sponsor of fishing competitions, which have a huge following.

The impact the withdrawal of tobacco money can have on a sport has been demonstrated by the plight of Hickstead, the premier show-jumping arena, which, earlier this year, lost £400,000 of sponsorship money provided by Silk Cut. It has taken the intervention of Paul Schockemöhle, the former German show-jumper, to save the Royal International Horse Show, but the future of the Hickstead Derby hangs in the balance.

Tobacco companies argue that they operate under a voluntary code of practice that prevents the sponsorship of events in which a significant number of under-18s take part. The television companies impose further restrictions on how tobacco logos are displayed when sports events are televised.

But even if the Government leaves tobacco sponsorship of sport untouched in this parliamentary session, there can be little doubt that it will remain vulnerable to new restrictions in the future. Sports which are especially reliant on tobacco money are almost certainly going to have to learn to wear themselves off the habit.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Challenge crews relishing calm after the storm

In the middle of one of the more relentless storms in the Southern Ocean, someone commented that they could not imagine ever being warm and dry again. Now, just a week into the fifth leg of the BT Global Challenge, we are already in shorts and T-shirts and it is fast becoming hard to imagine being thoroughly cold and wet.

The crew's reflections on the Southern Ocean range from the odd one who would vaguely contemplate returning, perhaps as skipper for the next race or maybe to round Cape Horn the "right" way, to the sentiment expressed by Sarah Brice, the medic on *Concert*, that the only ice she intended to see again was in a gin and tonic.

Cape Town was a tremen-

dous stopover. Apart from the fact that we were relieved to get there, it was an exciting place to visit and, although there was a lot of work to do on the boat, we managed to fit in a bit of exploring, including a scramble up Table Mountain.

In total, we had three weeks to recover from the rigours of the Southern Ocean and to prepare both ourselves and the boat for a very different leg. With some newly replaced parts to the boat — the pulpit on the bow had been battered out of all recognition — and the crew and skipper, Chris Tibbs, all mended and in working order, we were more than ready for the run to Boston.

The start was as impressive as expected in the shadow of Table Mountain. There were

Global Challenge

more people than we have seen at any other port, giving us a tremendous, impressive, "blessing of the waves" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The weather was kind, too, as we set off in blazing sunshine and then we really did sail off into the sunset — a glorious orange one.

There could be no greater contrast to the previous leg. Our only reminders are the weather faxes received on the on-board computer, which still depicts large areas of the Southern Ocean. We now take

Lucy Duncan says thoughts are now turning to home on board *Concert*

great delight in looking from a distance at some horrible depression, imagining the storms down there while we are rather snugly up here.

No longer do we have to drag waterlogged sails across a heaving deck, being regularly submerged by large waves. Since the start we have been sailing downwind with spinners, which is positively restful in comparison. No longer do we have to be woken half an hour before our next watch in order to struggle into numerous layers

of clothing. Now it is a five-minute job to stagger out of bed and go straight on deck in casual clothing.

Consequently, the need for sleep is not so urgent and we have more time. We are all talking to each other much more again. We never seemed to have the time in the Southern Ocean — we were too busy just holding on and surviving.

Conversations and thoughts are now beginning to turn to plans for after the race. Cape Town seems to have been something of a watershed and the end of the race is starting to become a reality. Approximately half the crew of *Concert* are intending to return to their jobs, though no one is quite sure of their expectations or how they will cope with "real life" again. I am sure that this is a topic that will run and run, with the answers becoming less clear the closer we get to Southampton.

Meanwhile, we are thoroughly enjoying the warmer weather and appreciating it far more than we did in October. Breakfast on the first day out of Cape Town found us in first place. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case as we are now third. Having lost the last leg by a mere 20 minutes, we need no incentive to avoid the same fate in Boston.

LATEST POSITIONS (as at 13.56 GMT yesterday, with miles to Boston): 1. *Concert* (UK) 5,212; 2. *Group 4* 5,212; 3. *Concord* 5,202; 4. *Tadpole Wave* 5,202; 5. *Save The Children* 5,234; 6. *Courtesy* 5,241; 7. *Motorola* 5,252; 8. *Norfolk* 5,252; 9. *Global Teamwork* 5,352; 10. *Heath Insurance* 5,372; 11. *Prada* 5,392; 12. *Time & Tide* 5,414; 14. *SCM* 5,418.

Curling severs link with Barber

POINT-TO-POINT

By CARL EVANS

ONE of the sport's most successful partnerships ended on Saturday when Polly Curling finished her association with Richard Barber, the Dorset trainer.

"Having been the yard's No 1 rider in the past I have been unhappy at getting fewer rides this season," Curling said from her Somerset home yesterday. "The final straw

came when I was told Polly Gundry would ride Earthmover at Cheltenham."

One of the best six-year-olds in the country, Earthmover, had been ridden by Curling until injury prevented her partnering him in two recent wins, when Gundry took over.

Point-to-pointing's most successful rider in recent years, Curling, 32, became Barber's first-choice jockey in 1993 and capped her association with the yard when

winning Cheltenham's Foxhunters' Chase on Pantus in 1995, a year in which she rode a record 40 winners between the flags.

She won the national women riders' title three times in that period but the non-stop success ended last year when Curling took a number of heavy falls and lost her women's championship title to Alison Dore. Some owners in the yard lost faith in Curling and Tim Mitchell effectively

became top rider. Mitchell rode Pantus at Cheltenham in March when the gelding collected his second Foxhunters' Chase, a demolition for Curling which she felt acutely.

Any ill feeling was suppressed when Curling raced to 16 winners this year and she was awarded for another women riders' title until a fall on an outside ride last month rendered her unconscious and forced her to the sidelines for the mandatory 21 days.

She had a quiet return last week but when told Gundry would ride Earthmover, Curling declined the ride on Old Mill Stream, the ladies' open winner under Gundry at the Minehead & West Somerset on Saturday.

"We had some great times and I rode more than 110 winners for the yard," Curling said. "But when you ride for a high-profile yard you are expected to win on everything. Sometimes people forget that when you ride a lot of five-year-olds you are bound to have falls. Now I'm looking forward to riding for some old friends. I've ridden 105 winners and my next goal is 200. I'm certainly not packing the sport up."

SAILING

Dutchman defies odds and squalls

By EDWARD GORMAN

SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ROY HEINER, of Holland, swept into the finish of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's North Sea Race at Scheveningen on Saturday on his new Mount Gay 30 Deignit, to steal first place overall in the IMS division from many larger yachts.

Heiner, who is based at Enkhuizen on the IJsselmeer and won a bronze medal in the Finn class at the Olympic Games, was all the more impressive for having won on a yacht designed to carry water ballast. This is illegal under IMS rules, so his tanks were empty and sealed.

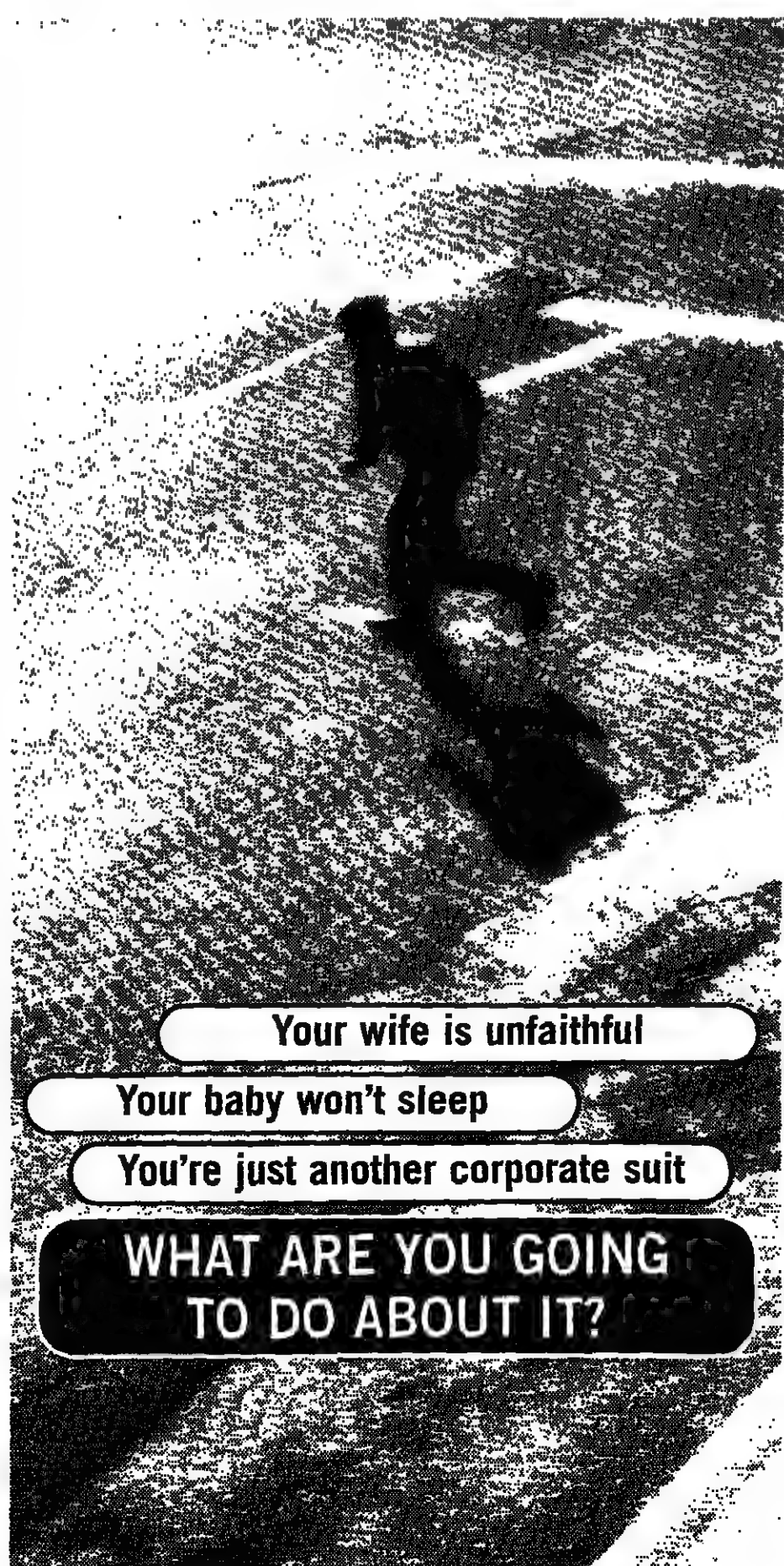
More than half the 60 starters who mustered off Harwich on Friday for the 192-mile race were Dutch, preparing for the IMS European championships next weekend.

A squally south-westerly produced plenty of power amid frequent showers. After a short beat at the start, the fleet was off the wind for most of the race, including a fast spinnaker run up to Smith's Knoll off the Norfolk coast and then a long broad reach on starboard to MSP buoy off IJmuiden.

The first finishers, including Richard Mathews's Oyster 46, *Essex Girl*, which took line honours, were able to fetch all the way to the line. But most of the fleet was forced to tack and they had the 25-knot southerly in their faces as they approached Scheveningen.

In the British-dominated CHS divisions, David Powell, on his West Mersea-based Lightwave 395, *Blush*, prevailed in Class 1 from the Dutch-owned J44, *J-Star*. In Class 3 the OOD34, *Two Geuzters*, owned by Hans Zuiderbaan but skippered by his wife, Hannah, emerged victorious.

Captain Roy Aspinall, of West Mersea, won Class 4 on his well-travelled UFO 34, *Bellerophon*.



Your wife is unfaithful

Your baby won't sleep

You're just another corporate suit

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

SATURDAY'S DETAILS	
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not show more confidence. I would have loved to smack the ball around like Hick. I should have played more.

Middlesex cruise to Sunday League victory with Ramprakash firmly at the helm

Fraser rips the heart out of feeble Sussex

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Sussex by seven wickets

THE yellow shirts that Sussex wear on Sundays have served as a fitting commentary on the cricket they have played at Lord's this week. They avoided an overwhelming defeat in the championship match that finished on Saturday only because rain ripped out more than a day's play. Yesterday, they lost by a country mile in the Axa Life League because they could make no more than 131 for nine.

Middlesex won easily, having 11 overs to spare when they reached their revised target of 120 in 38 overs. It was their first victory of the season, coming after a run of four defeats in one-day cricket, including that Benson and Hedges Cup loss in Dublin, and a draw in the championship.

Mark Ramprakash maintained his fluent early-season form with an unbeaten half-century. It was not an ideal pitch for one-day cricket and Mike Gatting's decision to ask Sussex to bat first on it was justified when his bowlers threatened to run through their batting for a song. That Sussex managed to complete their 40-over allocation owed everything to an unbeaten last-wicket stand of 39 by Mark Robinson and Amer Khan.

At the end of a frightful week Sussex could point to that stand with a measure of pride, or, if not pride, amusement. To find Sussex's previous best last-wicket stand in Sunday cricket you must go back to 1969, the first year of the competition, when John Snow and Don Bates made an unbeaten 37 against Hampshire at Hove. To be honest, it does not mean a lot. Sunday cricket, when it is played this poorly, early in the season, on a fairly cheerless day, is a miserable experience.

Angus Fraser might not agree. He has been searching

high and low for wickets to kick-start his benefit year, one that is bound to be well-rewarded given his excellent service to Middlesex and England over the past decade. Watching him bowl is an entertainment all by itself because he never bothers to disguise his feelings.

After Ricky Fay had taken two of the first three wickets, bowling his eight overs unchanged at the start of the innings, Fraser burst into action at the Pavilion End. By the time he had finished,

Johnson at the gate 36
Lynch's assault 36
League scores 40

Sussex were down and out at 90 for eight and he had taken three for ten from eight overs. Peter Moores was bowled neck and crop, Paul Jarvis hoiked one to deep square leg and Nick Phillips carved to third man, where Scott Moffat held a good running catch.

It was not the strongest Sussex side, although it is increasingly difficult to know what is. Rather like the government in *The King and I*, recruits in their dressing-room must feel it is a case of "getting to know you, getting to like you, hoping that you like me".

TABLE

Yorkshire (2)	PW	L	T	N	P	PP
Leicestershire (2)	2	0	0	0	0	24.71
Warwickshire (2)	2	0	0	0	0	18.77
Nottinghamshire (2)	2	0	0	0	0	17.91
Essex (17)	2	0	0	0	0	14.78
Gloucestershire (2)	2	0	0	0	0	13.10
Gloucestershire (18)	2	0	0	0	0	12.52
Nottinghamshire (8)	2	0	0	0	0	11.05
Warwickshire (8)	2	0	0	0	0	10.52
Essex (1)	2	0	0	0	0	9.28
Warwickshire (4)	2	0	0	0	0	8.52
Middlesex (7)	2	0	0	0	0	4.33
Gloucestershire (13)	2	0	0	0	0	4.17
Leicestershire (12)	2	0	0	0	0	4.12
Derbyshire (11)	2	0	0	0	0	3.18
Hampshire (10)	2	0	0	0	0	2.50
Sussex (14)	2	0	0	0	0	2.02
Derbyshire (14)	2	0	0	0	0	2.01

(Last season's position in brackets)

There was a Newell out there yesterday, a chap called Pyemont and another fellow youth by the name of Strong. With a Rao, and a Khan, and a hey-nony-no, spectators should keep a *Playfair* by their beds this year when planning a day watching Sussex. Desmond Haynes, who said when he was appointed the club's coach last year that he would write letters to all the players on their birthday, is going to be one very busy man.

Newell was the top scorer yesterday, making 21, all but two of them in singles. That is the stuff to bring back the crowds! Then, after Sussex fell away to 92 for nine, there was the glorious spectacle of Robinson batting out eight overs, exceeding his previous Sunday-best score, seven, as he did so.

It was not the best pitch for strokeplayers but it was still a feeble effort to make more than 131. Even though Weekes and Kallis went early, before rain lopped two overs off the Middlesex reply, Gatting and Ramprakash had few difficulties. They came together as a rainbow appeared over Regent's Park and, though their batting was not so colourful, they made 95 in 18 overs to put the result beyond doubt.

Gatting pulled Khan to deep backward square leg when he would rather have finished with an asterisk against his name. Ramprakash went calmly to his fifty, driving Khan over long-on for a six to go with five fours — as many as Sussex managed between them — and ended the game with a sixth, picked up over mid-wicket. When other batsmen are struggling to make runs he is making them left, right and centre and that is all a batsman can do.

One thing is for sure. Sussex could do with somebody like him. Please, no more excuses from the South Coast. If they want to put this wretched week behind them they should try looking in the mirror.



Moores is comprehensively bowled by Fraser as the Sussex innings collapses at Lord's yesterday

Careful Habib makes the difference

BY SIMON WILDE

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Worcestershire by six runs

LEICESTERSHIRE exacted a measure of revenge for their embarrassment in the championship fixture at New Road by upsetting Worcestershire, old hands at the one-day game, in a truncated Axa Life League match yesterday. A spate of rainfalls preventing a start until 5.20pm. After a most unpromising start — at one point they were 27 for six — they ran out winners in a 16-overs thrash with something to spare.

Worcestershire began the last over, bowled by Maddy, requiring 15 runs to reach their target of 99, but they could manage only eight and finished on 92 for nine. In reality, they lost the match

earlier in the innings, when they were shocked at the swift loss of Moody and Hick. They were tied down by disciplined bowling and several batsmen perished in attempts to break free.

Leicestershire also won because they possessed the one batsman, Aftab Habib, who was able to produce an innings of substance in such a frenetic game, but they did themselves no favours by responding to being asked to bat first by shuffling their order bewilderingly. Whitaker kept himself back to No 7 and Maddy to No 8 and no one but Habib seemed to have the first idea of what to do.

They lost three wickets in the third over and one each in the fourth, sixth and eighth overs, at which point the score was 27 for six. If they sent in men to hit Newport off his length, it did not work. Wells

and Smith, in his first innings of the season, were both bowled driving loosely and their running between the wickets descended into chaos after a fine piece of anticipation by Leatherdale had led to the running out of Dakin.

Nixon, Whitaker and Macmillan were subsequently also run out, all by substantial distances. They will not want to reflect on any of them, but they would be wise to remember for future reference that Spiring and Solanki have fine arms.

It was Habib, who was the only man who bothered to play himself in, who gave Leicestershire something to defend with a creative, unbeaten 45 from 43 balls, with two sixes and three fours. Once he was finally joined by Maddy, 40 runs came in 22 balls, with an over from Sheriary costing 14 runs and another from Brinkley 17.

This season, Habib is fulfilling the promise he showed last year, but he was frustrated at how little of the strike he commanded towards the end of the innings. He showed the sharpness of his eye, though, by stepping across to pick up a ball well outside off stump from Sheriary and dispatch it through wide mid on.

Worcestershire's start was not much more auspicious than that of their opponents. Moody and Hick strode out with great purpose, as though intent on scoring the runs themselves, and few would have bet against them. Yet, within four overs, both had departed to the extra boundary of Mullally, who caught Moody himself off a leading edge and saw Hick stride a cut into the hands of Johnson, thus maintaining his miserable start to the season.

Taylor fails as Waugh warms up for Ashes defence

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARK WAUGH scored 116 in 66 balls to power Australia to an easy victory over a Rest of the World XI in Hong Kong yesterday. Australia, chasing 245 in 40 overs, reached their target in only 28 overs. Waugh's hundred, made in 91 minutes, included 11 fours and nine sixes on the short boundaries of the Kowloon Cricket Club.

Waugh was given early support by his brother, Steve, also in boundary-making form, after the visitors had made a shaky start losing their out-of-form skipper, Mark Taylor, caught behind for four.

To the raucous cheers of Australian spectators, Waugh reached his century with an enormous six, dispatching the yellow ball on to an adjoining bowling green where a ladies' match was in progress. A pitch invasion ensued, in

which an Australian supporter presented the batsman with a glass of chilled lager. Australia, en route to England where they will defend the Ashes, reached 248 for six, claiming the Super Challenge Cup in the first one-day international held in Hong Kong.

The Rest of the World reached a respectable total, thanks to the efforts of the Indians, Rohan Gavaskar (51) and Sanjay Manjrekar (80), and some punchy play by the middle order, including some rather agricultural swings. Taylor admitted that he faced a big challenge in the opening weeks of the Ashes tour. He said on Saturday that he would drop himself from the Test side if he failed to rediscover his form.

"I've got a month to prove to myself and the other selectors that I am one of the two best opening batsmen in this side," he said.

Gates open on new facilities

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THEY officially opened the Dennis Brooks Gates at Northamptonshire's County Ground yesterday, but not many people passed through them as a succession of heavy showers washed out their Axa Life League game against Somerset.

The gates, bearing the name of a man who has served Northamptonshire for 60 years as player, captain, coach, finance administrator, committee member and captain, and a new wall at the Abington Avenue end of the ground effectively complete the work made necessary by the departure of Northampton Town Football Club three years ago.

At Derby, a thoroughly miserable five days at the Racecourse Ground ended with the Axa Life League game between Derbyshire and Surrey going the same way as their county championship meeting.

The teams spent four-fifths of the time kicking their heels in the changing rooms, culminated in a final curtain at 5pm yesterday afternoon. Numerous pitch inspections by Barry Dudson and Allan Jones, the umpires, held out a faint hope of a start at 5.30pm, but torrential rain then followed a cloudburst in the early afternoon and there was no option but to settle for a no-result.

Teams will be hoping for a change in the weather for the final round of Benson and Hedges Cup games today.

Middlesex have added Ricky Fay and David Nash as they search for their first win in this year's competition against Somerset at Lord's.

Vasbert Drakes, the fast bowler, and Keith Newell, the batsman, are both doubtful for Sussex's crucial game against Surrey at the Oval.

Drakes suffered a side injury and Newell pulled hamstring in the drawn county championship match against Middlesex.

If Newell is unfit he may be replaced by his 23-year-old younger brother, Mark, and James Pyemont, the teenage batsman, could also be considered for his debut in the competition.

WEDNESDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

AXA Life League

Durham v Nottinghamshire

HARTLEPOOL (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Durham by nine wickets

DURHAM
J E Morris c Bates b Evans ... 2
M P Spaight c Pollard b Bates ... 2
D C Scott not out ... 4
M J Foster c Nisbet b Tolley ... 2
J B Smith c Gile b Bowen ... 2
J B Smith not out ... 2
P D Collingwood c Johnson b Evans ... 10
P D Collingwood c Nisbet b Bowen ... 10
Bolling not out ... 1
Killean not out ... 1
Extras (b 4, lb 7, w 12) ... 23
Total (8 wickets, 23 overs) ... 150
A Walker did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-45, 3-85, 4-104, 5-111, 6-138, 7-137, 8-147.

BOWLING: Evans 5-0-25-0, Tolley 4-0-25-1, Collingwood 4-0-4-0, Downman 4-0-33-0.

Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss): No result, Gloucestershire (2pts) Hampshire (2)

GLoucestershire
M A Lynch not out ... 50
A J Wright c James b Uddell ... 4
S Young c Stephenson b Uddell ... 4
P W Russell c James b Uddell ... 4
M W Almyer c Hayden b Muscarello ... 2
T H C Harrold c Hayden b Lantry ... 2
G J Currie not out ... 2
Extras (lb 7, w 12) ... 19
Total (8 wickets, 16 overs) ... 130
N J Tresco, M C J Ball, A M Smith and K P Shearer did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-17, 3-18, 4-115, 5-123.

BOWLING: Lantry 4-0-25-1, Uddell 3-0-35-2, Shearer 3-0-35-0, Muscarello 3-0-35-1.

Hampshire: M L Hayden, J P Stephenson, R A Smith, J A N Jones, S D Uddell, K D James, S J Retherford, A D Muscarello, W S Kendall, J S Lantry, P R Whitaker.

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White.

Middlesex v Sussex

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Sussex by seven wickets (D/L method)

SUSSEX
K Greenfield c Kallis b Hewitt ... 13
R R Rao b Fay ... 10
R R Taylor b Fay ... 10
M Newell c Weekes b Kallis ... 21
J P Pyemont c Gatting b Weekes ... 1
P J Moore b Fraser ... 4
P W Jarvis c Ramprakash b Fraser ... 4
N C Phillips c Moffat b Fraser ... 3
A A Khan not out ... 22
M R Long b Kallis ... 9
M A Robinson not out ... 9
Extras (lb 15, w 18, nb 2) ... 35
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) ... 191
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-44, 3-54, 4-58, 5-71, 6-84, 7-87, 8-90, 9-92.

BOWLING: Hewitt 6-0-24-1, Fay 8-1-23-2, Duff 4-0-8-0, Weekes 5-0-32-1, Fraser 8-1-10-3, Kallis 6-0-19-2.

Middlesex

P N Weekes c Newell b Jarvis ... 4
J H Kallis b Jarvis ... 10
M R Ramprakash not out ... 57
P W Jarvis c Jarvis b Khan ... 24
J C Procter not out ... 4
Extras (lb 2, w 15, nb 0) ... 25
Total (8 wickets, 27 overs) ... 126

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-52, 3-84, 4-86, 5-109, 6-130.

BOWLING: Steward 6-0-38-0, Gough 7-0-33-1, Stamp 6-0-32-3, White 6-0-38-0, Harley 6-0-42-2.

Yorkshire v Glamorgan

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets

GLAMORGAN
S P James c White b Stamp ... 9
N Morris c White b Stamp ... 32
A Dale c Bailey b Harley ... 18
M P Maynard c Gough b Stamp ... 21
P A Cotterill c Gough b Stamp ... 21
D B Croft c end b Harley ... 29
G R Butler not out ... 6
T A D Shaw not out ... 10
Extras (b 5, w 15, nb 2) ... 22
Total (8 wickets, 32 overs) ... 188
Wesley Younis, S L Wallen and O T Patten did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-52, 3-84, 4-86, 5-109, 6-130.

BOWLING: Steward 6-0-38-0, Gough 7-0-33-1, Stamp 6-0-32-3, White 6-0-38-0, Harley 6-0-42-2.

Yorkshire

"D" Ples c Morris b Dale ... 83
M P Vaughan b Patten ... 37
P J Harley c Morris b Butler ... 23
D B Croft c end b Harley ... 29
G R Butler not out ... 6
T A D Shaw not out ... 10
Extras (b 5, w 15, nb 2) ... 22
Total (8 wickets, 28.5 overs) ... 188
B Parker, A McGrath, C White, D Gough, C E Steward and D D Stamp did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-64, 2-132, 3-177, 4-187, 5-193 from 32 overs.

BOWLING: Wallen 4-0-23-0, Wesley Younis 4-0-29-0, Croft 4-0-34-0, Patten 5-0-35-1, Butler 3-0-15-1, Dale 4-0-32-1, Steward 6-0-42-2.

Johnson has the right formula

BY IVO TENNANT

HARTLEPOOL (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Durham by nine wickets (D/L method)

IN AN Axa Life match of 23 overs a side, Durham, who were put in, made 155 for eight. Nottinghamshire were thus left to score 154 to win. If anybody on the ground understood this logic — the scorers took 15 minutes to settle on this computation — it was not apparent. Duckworth Lewis are making for a baffling duo.

The public-address announcer had a stab at explaining this new system for resolving run rates required for rain-affected limited overs matches, but, wisely, desisted. Besides, the crowd was much



Johnson: unbeaten 74

more concerned with the relegation from the FA Carling Premiership of Middlesex, brought and Sunderland. Nottinghamshire won with 26 balls to spare, Paul Johnson making an unbeaten 74 off 42 balls with 13 fours.

The Association of County Cricket Scorers has already made it clear that it is none too happy at having to grapple with this complex system. Some among its number are of pensionable age and they found coping with computerisation difficult enough when it was introduced in 1993. One scorer, who is now dead, failed to comprehend that his computer would not work if he used the "mouse" upside down.

Anyway, 154 was what Not-

tinghamshire required to win, and that was what they got. Last year they finished runners-up in this competition and, if they continue to bat and bowl like this, they should do well once more. Johnson and Robinson put on an unbeaten 105 for the second wicket in a mere 11 overs. The manner in which they found the gaps in the field was exemplary.

Durham, as was evident last season, do not possess the kind of niggardly attack necessary to excel in this form of the game. Robinson and Downman began with 56 off seven overs before the latter drove a return catch to Brown. Johnson, no doubt irked by a suggestion in the national press from a former opponent that Nottinghamshire are no longer worthy of first-class status, played a splendidly aggressive innings of calculated drives and pulls.

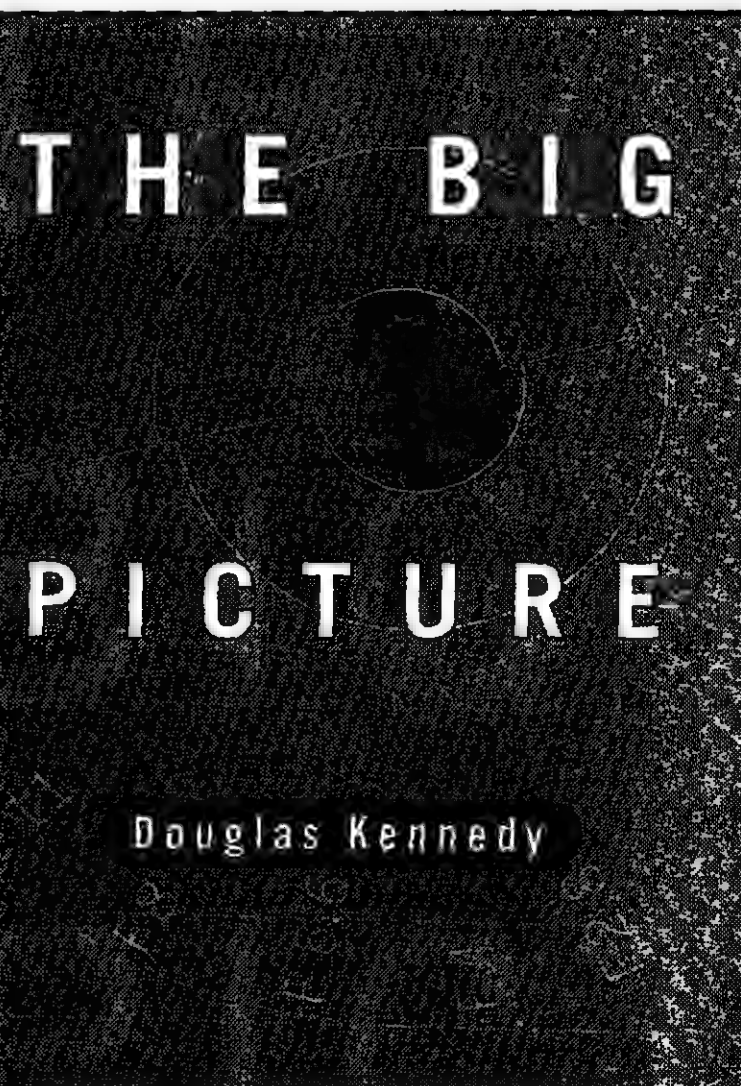
Killean and Foster were the two bowlers in particular who struggled to maintain the right length. Johnson, who as yet has not found his touch in first-class cricket this season, also came up with some deft late cuts and improvised glided shots to find the boundary. By the end of his innings, nobody quite knew where to bowl at him.

That there was any play at all reflected well on the groundstaff at this most hospitable of clubs. This is Peter Mandelson country, but sport has been the only obsession here for the past five chilly days. Three of Durham's new players made the bulk of their runs, but none of them dominated the bowling in the manner Johnson did later in the afternoon.

Speight opened, as he expects to do regularly this season, and struck 42 off 39 balls before reverse sweeping Bates to square leg.

Boon was starting to play with some freedom when he was run out by a direct throw from Bates, changing the kind of single that even a man of his build has to take on Sundays. Speak contributed, too, but insufficient runs came at the end of the innings for Durham to give their bowlers much succour.

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ABACUS

CRICKET

Byas tilts match in Yorkshire's favour

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire (1pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets (D/L method)

THE white rose bloomed beneath unrelenting grey skies yesterday as David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, cast aside his modest limited-overs form with a match-winning innings of 83 in the Axa Life League.

Byas, who hit nine fours and faced 78 balls, gave Yorkshire instant impetus when chasing 193. He dominated an opening partnership of 84 in 12 overs with Michael Vaughan as Waqar Younis, Glamorgan's fast-bowling import from Pakistan, struggled on his Sunday debut. Yorkshire won with 33 balls to spare.

After dispensing with their out-grounds, apart from Scarborough, more matches will be played at this old-established arena than in living memory, and the focus at Headingley is sharper than ever.

This pitch looked in far better shape than the dual purpose surface for the Benson and Hedges Cup game against Worcestershire and the drawn championship match against Glamorgan. It had some pace, which suited Tony Cottee, who hit six fours and two sixes from 31 balls, and offered equal encouragement for the bowlers. Except for pulling rabbits from a hat, Cottee did almost everything else.

Nimble-footed, he moved into position and gave himself room, ultimately perishing in the way he had flourished, moving across his stumps and being yorked by Gough. By then, Cottee had sustained his Sunday form, having made 61 in the defeat by Somerset last week. His fifth-wicket partnership of 83 in ten overs with Robert Croft made a brash statement after the match had been trimmed to 32 overs by a delayed start and a rain interruption.

Croft struck 29 from 27 balls, following the typically purposeful approach of Morris, with 32 from 34. Morris, James and Maynard all tumbled to Stemp, whose cumulative limited-overs return is 12 for 189 this season. Stemp's brief glimmer as an England prospect may have been extinguished, but his merits at county level remain undimmed. Now in his fifth summer with the county, he has emerged as Yorkshire's

most consistent early-season bowler.

Gough also had his moments and fondly recalls these Sunday encounters with Glamorgan. Three years ago, he celebrated his selection for England's one-day squad by bowling Yorkshire to a nine-wicket win at Cardiff. The next summer, he yoked Dale with the final ball of the game at Headingley as Yorkshire triumphed by two runs.

At 37, Hartley had a considerable input in this latest win. With Gough a near-automatic choice for England against Australia this summer, Hartley is an especially precious county commodity. Though omitted from the championship match that ended in a rain-ruined draw on Saturday, Hartley continued his upper-order batting role, this time at No 3. Statistics testify to his unsung past. Needing 25 to complete the Sunday double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets, he was dismissed for 23 from 17 balls.

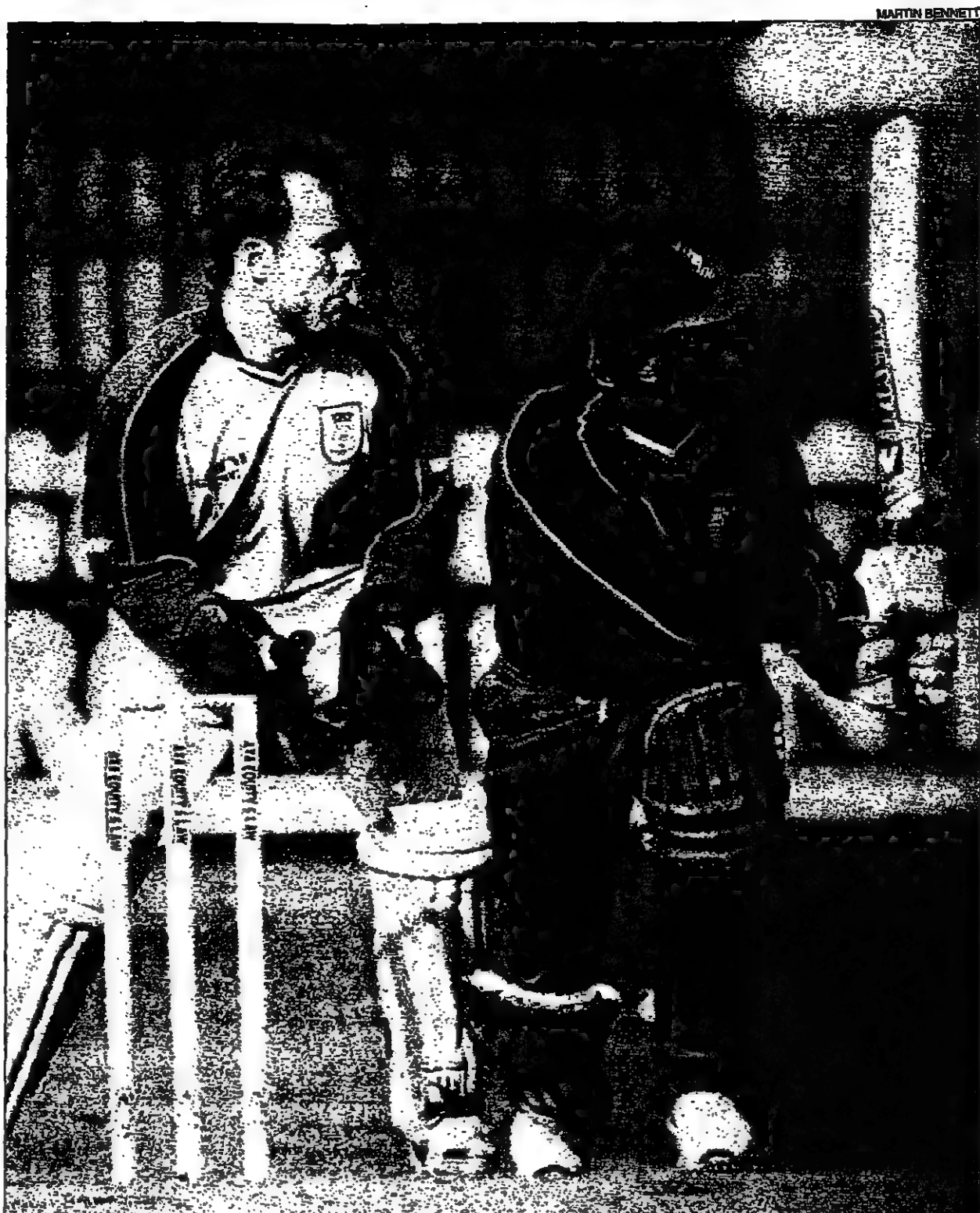
Hartley, with 164 wickets, still lurks on the brink of joining that Yorkshire elite of Chris Old, Phil Carrick and Graham Stevenson. Old remains, and will do so alone, on the pinnacle of 1,711 runs and 192 wickets.

Even Hartley's departure did not detract from Yorkshire's advance. Vaughan, with 37 from 34 balls, had been already bowled by a ball from Parkin that kept low.

Yorkshire hurtled along at a carefree seven an over. Waqar conceding 29 from four overs while Byas thrashed six fours in a 47-ball half-century. This merry romp extended Yorkshire's limited-overs success this season. With a place in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final draw beckoning, they have a first title in a decade on the horizon.

When Byas was caught at short extra cover, Yorkshire needed only 16 runs with eight overs remaining. Darren Lehmann, with three consecutive half-centuries in all competitions, completed the task with an unbeaten 33 from 21 balls.

The annual Costcutter Cup at Harrogate is also among Yorkshire's limited-overs programme. It was announced yesterday that Scotland will compete for the first time, meeting Durham on June 10, with Yorkshire playing Gloucestershire the previous day. The final will be played on June 11.



Lynch flicks Udal for four during an explosive innings rendered meaningless by the return of heavy rain

Alleyne welcomes team input

By JAMES ALLEN

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss; No result. Gloucestershire (2pts) Hampshire (2)

FOR a man coming to terms with the cares of captaincy, Mark Alleyne cut a relaxed figure. It no doubt helps that the team he inherited on the eve of the season has taken an early lead in the county championship, but it is hard to imagine the giant smile that regularly breaks across his features being banished for long, even in adversity.

It would be wrong, however, to mistake such affability for a lack of determination to make the most of the opportunity that has suddenly come his way at the age of 28. He was as surprised as anyone when Jack Russell, who had been expected to stand in as captain in place of Courtney Walsh, failed to agree to terms under which he would take the job. "I attended the county captains' meeting in March, but I just went as a representative," Alleyne said. "Jack was meeting the club the next day and I thought it was a question of just sorting out a few details. They did not agree and I was more than happy to accept their offer. I might have seemed a third choice, but I really don't want to look at it that way. The club have been incredibly supportive."

As the rain toyed with the Axa Life League match against Hampshire at Bristol yesterday, which was eventually abandoned after Gloucestershire's truncated innings — of 139 for five off 16 overs — Alleyne outlined the way in which he aims to construct a team that is more than the sum of its parts.

"I'm not a dictator," he said. "I aim to listen and give everyone a chance to say what they want. It's important to have open discussion. I don't want anyone whingeing, because they will have had the chance to put across their point of view."

In Russell and Tony Wright, he has two experienced former captains on whom to rely for advice, but ultimately the decisions will be his alone. He greets enquiries about who picks the team with an emphatic "I do" and articulates his thoughts on how Gloucestershire can build upon their championship victory on Saturday with care.

"We are not the kind of team who can afford to be lazy, we must play to our full potential all the time. We are a side where nearly everybody does more than one thing, where everybody has to contribute. It's so easy on days like this, — he gestures towards the covers in the middle — "to let things drift, but we must retain our focus."

Judgments made at this time of year often need revisiting come September, but the signs are encouraging. Lawrence's return has given morale a huge boost. Lynch is scoring runs freely — his unbeaten 88 yesterday, made off 51 balls, was another spectacular though ultimately meaningless innings — and Shaun Young may turn out to be an inspired choice as overseas player.

"We've stayed like this before and then fallen away," Alleyne said. "The real test is keeping it going."

Lawrence, whose comeback was hampered by a sequence of muscle injuries, will not be considered for the final Benson and Hedges Cup group match against Kent today.

Gloucestershire are also without Jon Lewis, another seam bowler, who has an injury to his bowling hand.

Kamran Sheeraz, a seam bowler who did well against Somerset 2nd XI last week, has been brought in.

Drug cheats turn to insulin for improved results

John Goodbody warns of sinister use being made of treatment for diabetes

THE scourge of drug-taking in British sport has returned, with fatal consequences in one instance.

A 21-year-old bodybuilder is being treated in a Herefordshire hospital for severe brain damage after injecting himself with excessive amounts of insulin, the drug commonly used for the treatment of diabetes, but also described by one leading body-building magazine "as the most powerful anabolic hormone on the planet."

At an Essex inquest last Thursday, on a 36-year-old fitness trainer, Gary Kendall, Dr Malcolm Wier, the coroner, said Kendall's heart was a "time bomb" through anabolic steroid abuse. In February, he had collapsed at his home in Canvey Island, screaming abuse at paramedics and police after they had broken into his home to try to save him after a heart attack triggered by a dose of cocaine.

Dr Diana Cox, a pathologist, said that the use of anabolic steroids had made his heart grow in weight to 640 grammes, twice its normal size. Dr Cox said that the veins and the arteries carrying blood to the enlarged organ had remained normal in size but this also meant that the heart was seriously undernourished.

"An enlarged heart is a form of disease," she said. "It is progressive and there is no cure. The effect of the steroids built up over the months or years and he would have been at risk of a heart attack at any time."

Although anabolic steroids have been misused in sports such as athletics and American football, rugby union and cycling, for some time, insulin is a recent innovation.

Magazines and internet sites are promoting its use partly because insulin is not a prohibited substance and partly because there is no internationally-accepted test for its detection.

In a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Drs Sarah Elkin, Sharon Brady and Isabel Williams, who have been treating the unnamed bodybuilder at Hemel Hempstead Hospital, said athletes "have been looking for alternative drugs to help them put on muscle mass and burn off fat."

The doctors pointed out that insulin is a "P" category drug, which means it can be obtained without a prescription. "We were able to buy soluble insulin over the counter without prescription or identification. We are not diabetic."

They have called on the Department of Health to review its policy on the sale of insulin. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society recently warned its members to ensure that sales are made only for the treatment of diabetes.

Dr Rob Dawson, a GP in Tyne and Wear, has also written to the Home Office urging a change in the law. Dr Dawson, who is the medical officer for DISCUS (Drugs in Sport Clinic and User Support), set up by the North Durham Health Authority, said yesterday that "it was a serious health matter. I am aware of one traffic accident already caused by the condition of hypoglycaemia."

This occurs when there is abnormally low blood sugar, either because the individual has taken too much insulin or because he has taken insufficient carbohydrate.

Michael Verroken, head of the UK Sports Council's drugs unit, said the organisation, which spends about £1 million of taxpayers' money a year on drug education and detection, "utterly deplored the misuse of a medicine in this way."

Those who misuse insulin believe it will help to drive the amino acids into the muscle cells, helping them recover more quickly from intensive exercise and allowing muscles to grow faster.

SPEEDWAY

Poole strike back to avenge home defeat

By TONY HOARE

THE Elite League shows no sign of settling down from a topy-turvy start to the season, with a series of shock results unsettling the reputations of the favourites. For example, Bradford travelled to Poole on Wednesday and demolished the Dorset team, securing the match with four heats left.

The 53-37 defeat stunned a Poole side whose promoter had been making bold claims about winning the Elite League just a fortnight earlier.

Things did not improve for Poole at Belle Vue, who coasted to a 61-29 victory against the Pirates, who could offer no resistance to the Manchester club's powerful top quartet.

Then matters took another twist. Poole travelled across the Pennines on Saturday and struck back against the Bradford side that had embarrassed them three days earlier, snatching a 45-44 victory.

The Yorkshire club has, historically, been near invincible around the banked oval track but travelled poorly. This year they signed three small-track experts for away matches but the evidence so far suggests they should be worrying about their home displays for the defeat on Saturday was the second in three Elite League matches at Odsal.

Their victory at Poole was helped by some brilliant overtaking but at home they were second best to the Pirates at the starting gate.

"It was all about gating," the Bradford promoter, Allan Ham said. "It was a very disappointing night, nothing went right."

Coventry went down to their first home defeat of the season, against King's Lynn, whose guest rider, Carl Stonehewer, borrowed from Premier League Long Eaton for the night, made the difference, beating the home No 1, Greg Hancock, in the last heat.

□ Newcastle have become the first club to be punished in the tyre-tamping row. The Speedway Control Board has docked them a point after it was revealed that Glyn Taylor had used an illegal tyre in the away draw at Edinburgh in the Premier League Cup.

POLO

Minotaurs destroy Bears' myth

By JOHN WATSON

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show Cup was contested by the Minotaurs, who are put together by the Swiss player, Adriano Agosti, and Andrew Hodgkinson's Polo Bears. UBS at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, at the weekend. The Minotaurs won 5-3.

The Minotaurs' leading player, Cody Forsyth, of New Zealand, who plays off an eight handicap, took a while to settle into smooth partnership with his No 2, Anthony Fanshawe. Thus, during the first half of this rain-soaked match, the Polo Bears' Australian No 3, Glen Gilmore, well-supported by William Hine at back and Tim Stakemire at No 2, led most of the attacks.

And, with Gilmore converting a couple of well-lofted penalty shots during the second chukka, Polo Bears led 3½-2 at reading-in time (their half-goal advantage being attributed to their aggregating a team handicap of only 14 against the Minotaurs' 15).

Not only Forsyth and Fanshawe, but also their speedy No 1, Luke Tomlinson, who snapped in a couple of goals, played in harmony during the second half of an exciting encounter, all backing up and passing to one another in copybook style. Almost every time the Polo Bears attacked in this second phase of the tussle, Forsyth was there to return the ball to their half of the ground, thus frustrating their attempts to regain the lead.

The tournament for the medium-goal Royal Windsor Cup, which has attracted 17 entries and is the next item on the Guards Club's programme, is to be played in four leagues. That competition starts on May 17.

MINOTAURS: 1, 1 Tomlinson 2, 2 A Fanshawe 14, 3 C Forsyth 13, 4 B Agosti 10, 5 G Gilmore 16, 6 W Hine 14.

POLO BEARS: 1, 1 A Hodgkinson 17, 2, 2 T Stakemire 13, 3, 3 Glen Gilmore 16, 4, 4 B Hine 14.

CYCLING

Feat of Clay enlivens two races

By PETER BRYAN

JON CLAY proved a man for all seasons yesterday when he caused the time-trial upset of the year to win the British ten-mile championship near Barton-on-Humber in his first attempt at a national title against the clock.

It was a championship he did not know he had won until several hours later, unable to stay to the finish to see how he had fared against most of the expected big-hitters who had started up to two hours after the 33-year-old Leeds man.

Clay, off fifteenth from a full field of 120 dispatched at one-minute intervals, was in a hurry to get to Lincoln for the start of the city's annual 102-mile grand prix road race.

When he left he knew that his time of 20min 42sec was fastest. But still to start were all the expected medal-winner, including Rob Hayles, the defending champion, and Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner in 1989 and now retired from international racing.

But neither Hayles nor Yates was fast enough, with the latter eventually finishing fourth in 21min 13sec. Hayles was two seconds slower.

The early starters had the better weather conditions; as the race progressed there were near-gale force winds and rain increased the danger of skidding.

The Walker brothers — Harry and Brian — enjoyed a family celebration, taking silver and bronze medals in close order with times of 20min 54sec and 20min 55sec. Both rode machines based on Graeme Obree's original and controversial design.

And Clay? Another fine performance a few hours later at Lincoln, where he finished fourth to the winner, John Tanner, who took over the lead from an absent Hayles in the season-long Premier Calendar competition.

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Golf is attracting the young, particularly since the rise of Tiger Woods. Morag Preston goes to golfing school

Lessons for those who aim to be the youngest swingers in town

Years before they have chaired a board meeting or tasted their first gin and tonic, youngsters are being persuaded to take to the golf course.

Encouraged by ambitious parents and guided by patient pros, the baby-faced brigade have abandoned their mud-caked football boots in favour of what is usually regarded as a rather sophisticated sport.

A group of nervous juniors, aged between five and eight, arrived at Foxhills in Surrey last Sunday afternoon for the first of their four weekly lessons at the country club, of which the football pundit Gary Lineker is a member.

Sore-eyed from swimming and awestruck by one of the many tennis courts, eight sunburnt youngsters — known as the "Wee Wonders" — gathered at the shop before making their way to the all-weather driving range.

According to Marc Hayton, the marketing director, it makes "commercial sense" to introduce juniors.

Charles Lobb — known to his chums as "Door Knob" — was the first to turn up at the 400-acre club, with his ant-



ious-looking father in tow. Aged eight, and a dead ringer for Macaulay Culkin, Charles looked every bit the part, dressed in tartan trousers and a Foxhills sweatshirt.

His father, Ian, who is a club member and part-time player, bellowed: "Charles has not really taken an interest in many sports — particularly contact sports — but he loves his golf."

The boy now plays at least once a week.

Next to arrive was Alex Holland, Charles's school friend, who has taken lessons at Foxhills before. Attracting envious glances for his sweatshirt emblazoned with a tiger (they are all Tiger Woods wannabes), Alex announces that he has been putting in

some practice in his front garden at home. It turns out that four of the children go to the same school (Hall Grove in Bagshot, where Nick Faldo's son is a pupil). The school has a five-hole golf course, but these boys are still too young to use it.

"The earlier they learn the better," says Richard Summerscales, 28, a professional at Foxhills for the past 11 years, who did not take up golf until he was 15. "Even if they can't get the correct grip, they can make a good swing. Kids are great mimics, and are less inhibited at an early age."

Allowing for their short attention span, he devises catchy rhymes to keep the game simple, and limits his lessons to 45 minutes maxi-

mum. Describing how to grip a club, he refers to his hand as five sausages, and the other as a greedy dog that gobbles them up.

Summerscales says: "We try not to encourage parents to watch, because we want the kids to concentrate on us. You can tell the ones who are pushed to come — they stubbornly refuse to listen."

He adds: "Children will learn quickly, but you have to keep it fun. They don't want to go to school at the weekend. Balance is the big thing — golf is not down to strength. If they are naturally talented, that will emerge almost immediately."

Club alignment, grip, ball

position, stance and posture are as much as the juniors can hope to learn over the four-week course. They attack the swing in their first two lessons, play a short game in their third, and practise putting during their fourth.

At a cost of £25, the sessions — which continue throughout the year, bar a few months in the winter — are almost three times oversubscribed.

"It all evolves around Tiger Woods," Summerscales says. "The same thing happened when Jack Nicklaus burst on the scene — youngsters recognise characters in the game."

There is usually a 37 split between girls and boys, but on this occasion eight-year-old Hayley Matthews is the only female. Bobbing gently at the knees, with her blonde ponytail in full swing, she prepares to strike the ball, the promising left-hander has been playing since she was two.

"I play a lot in the summer," she says, "because it's nice and sunny and my dad takes me to the driving range. But I'm not allowed to play in the garden, so at home I just practise my grip."

"My mum had lessons, but she doesn't really like it." Jack Taylor, a seven-year-old prodigy who first picked up a club two years ago, prefers Foxhills to his back garden, because he keeps losing balls. None of his family plays golf, but one of his more recent Christmas presents was



Jack Taylor: child prodigy

HOW TO GET STARTED

A JUNIOR might be daunted by a traditional club that has been in existence for years, so the Golf Foundation (01920 484044), set up to promote golf among four to 18-year-olds, subsidises 50 per cent of the cost of group lessons in 1,500 schools and colleges across the country. In association with local authorities, it also runs courses during school holidays.

For the past eight years, Foxhills has hosted an open

day to select four youngsters who would not otherwise be members, to be given four years' free membership, plus weekly tuition.

Morgan Palmer, 18, one of the top amateurs in the country, is a past scholarship winner. Now that an increasing number of girls is becoming involved in the game, Foxhills also runs female-only lessons taught by Diane Bernard, a tour professional.

WHAT TO WEAR

WHEN Sylvester Stallone first played at Foxhills, the Hollywood actor-writer played with a junior putter and won his first game in a long while. Manufacturers such as Dunlop and Spalding are beginning to tap into the junior market, but still have some way to go. Cutting down a full-sized club is an alternative, but it

will affect the weight. Youngsters are advised to master all the shots with one club, before graduating to a full set. A brand new putter will cost about £12, shoes £29, a bag £49, a trolley £29. A bag with five clubs will cost about £89. To complete the image, Pooh Bear and Mini Mouse cover heads cost £13.50 each.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The time to double a voluntarily bid contract is when the suits break poorly for declarer. The danger is that it may give him clues as to the lie of the cards and how the hand should be played. Frequently, in match play, the results are Four Spades doubled one off at one table and Four Spades two off undoubled at the other — flat board. It can be worse, as this example shows:

Dealer South Game all Match-pointed pairs

♠ 7 3
♥ 3
♦ Q J 8 7 4 2
♣ 6 2

♠ A 8 6 4
♥ K 10 9 8
♦ 10
♣ K 10 9 8

♠ K 8
♥ A J 8 5
♦ K 5 3
♣ Q J 8 4

Contract: Four Hearts Doubled, by South. Leads: queen of diamonds

South opened One No-trump (12-14). North tried Two Clubs asking for majors, and raised South's Two Heart rebid to Four Hearts. East greedily doubled — dangerous when North might have had a hand just short of a slam try.

Declarer won dummy's ace of diamonds and led the queen of hearts. This was covered by East and won with the ace. Declarer continued with the king of spades, which held, and another spade. East won and returned a spade. In dummy, declarer led a heart and finessed the eight. He now cashed the ace of hearts and played the queen of clubs. This lost to East but declarer made three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs for his contract.

The "safety play" of the eight of hearts would have been risky without the double

because West might win and give East a diamond ruff. Then East would exit with his last spade and later win the king of clubs to defeat the contract. It would have done East no good to split his heart honours because South would continue to draw trumps, losing just one spade, one heart and one club.

Without the double it is likely that declarer would have played a low heart from dummy at trick two, hoping to find East with the king singleton or doubleton for a real bonus.

□ Congratulations to my reader, Edwin Bigwood, who is 100 years old today.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Brinkmanship

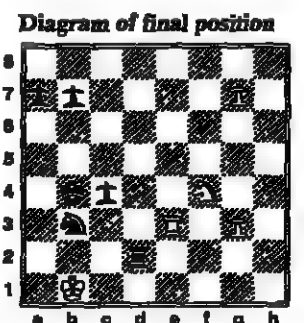
With one game to go in Garry Kasparov's clash against IBM's Deep Blue in New York, the score is still level. Try as he might, Kasparov could not force a victory in the fifth game.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Deep Blue
New York, May 1997

King's Indian Attack

1 Nf3 d5
2 g3 Bg4
3 Bg2 Nd7
4 Nd2 Bc5
5 Bc3 e6
6 d3 exd3
7 e4 Nc5
8 Bg2 dxc4
9 Bxc4 Nf5
10 Bg2 h5
11 Ne2 Qc7
12 Qc2 Se7
13 c3 Ng6
14 d4 exd4
15 h4 exd4
16 Nf3 Nc4
17 Ne4 Nc4
18 Bg5 Ng4
19 d-c3 d-c3
20 Qc2 Kc8
21 Kd1 Bg5
22 h4g5 Nf5
23 Rh1 Ne5
24 Nf5 Rd1
25 Rd1 Rd8
26 Qd4 Nf6
27 Re1 Nf6
28 Qc2 Qd6
29 c4 Qg6
30 Qc3 Qg6
31 d3 Nf2
32 Re6 Kc7
33 Rg6 Rd7
34 Nh4 Nc8
35 Bc5 Nf6
36 Re6 Nf6
37 cxb5 Rf5
38 Rg6 Rf7
39 Nf5 Nc4

40 Ng7 Rd1+
41 Kc2 Rd2+
42 Kc1 Rxc2
43 Nf5 Nc2
44 N4 Nc3+
45 Kb1 Rd2
46 Rf6 c4
47 Rf3 Kc5
48 g6 Kc5
49 g7 Kb4
Draw agreed



In the final position Kasparov can make a new queen with 50 g5/Q, but then Black has a draw by perpetual check with 50 ... Rd1+ 51 Kc2 Rd2+ 52 Kb1 Rd1+ etc.

England leads

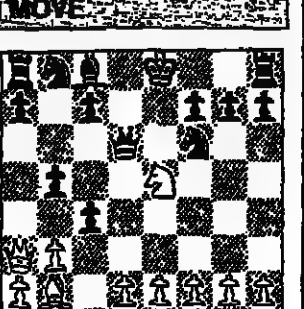
After five rounds of the European team championship at Pula, Croatia, England's men lead with 13½ points out of a possible 20, narrowly ahead of Croatia, Armenia, Russia and Hungary. In the women's event, England's 2-0 win against Hungary has pushed the team into second place behind Georgia but ahead of Greece, Hungary, Armenia, Russia and Germany.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Torre — Ed. Lasker, Chicago 1926. In this curious opening position the queens gives Black the opportunity for a powerful tactic. Can you see it?



Solution on page 43

WORD WATCH

By Philip Howard

TAPPEN
a. Norwegian gruel
b. A bear plug
c. A poltergeist

TREY
a. A brown-and-white pony
b. A three
c. To tremble

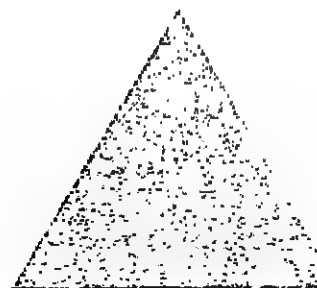
UTRUM
a. A writ
b. A small cymbal
c. Coarse drags of rum

TINTO
a. A parrot
b. A half-caste
c. Red wine

Answers on page 43



It's a game of two halves.



Why stop at two?



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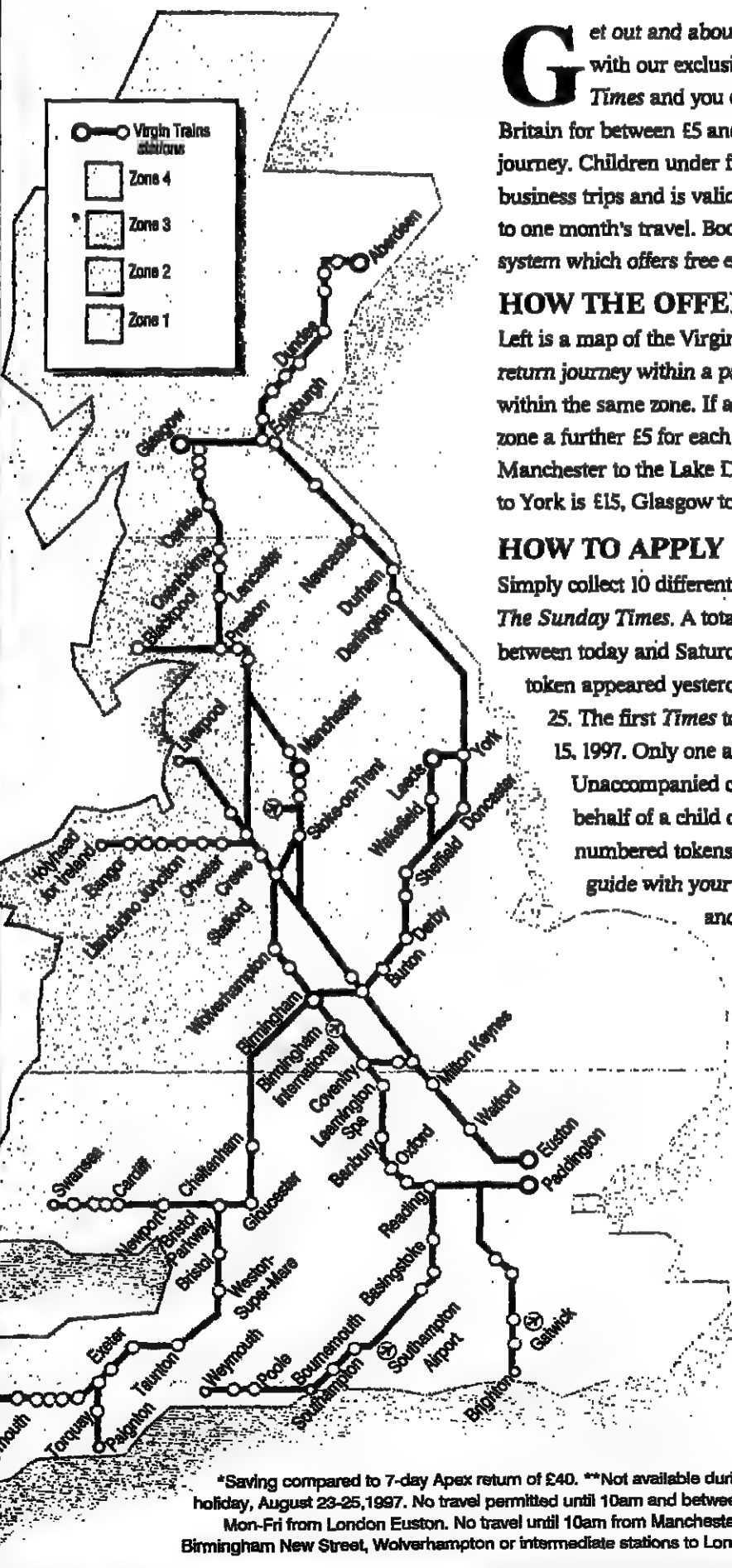
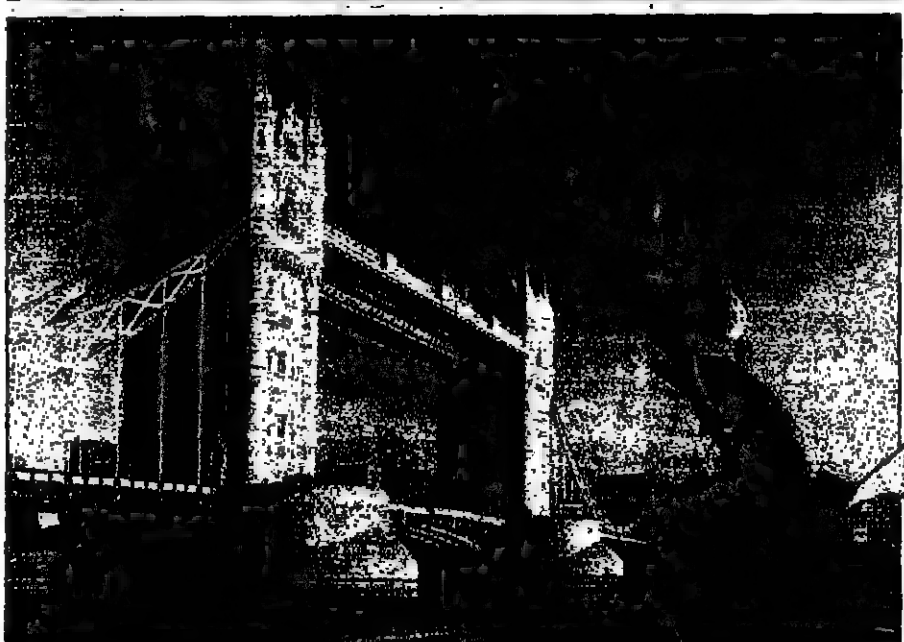
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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES



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bookings/seats can be booked at any one time on the booking line with four separate personal numbers. Bookings must be made a minimum of seven days prior to the intended date of travel. The offer applies to new bookings only. Previous bookings made prior to this offer cannot be exchanged or refunded for any ticket acquired under this offer. All bookings must be made on the Virgin TrainLine. Lines will be open 8am-10pm seven days a week. 8. Tickets allocated will be for Standard accommodation only. No upgrade is available with this offer. 9. Children under five go FREE. Unaccompanied children are not allowed to travel on this offer. 10. Children under five will require a completed application form with 10 differently numbered tokens. 11. Each token requires one completed application form and 10 differently numbered tokens. One household may apply for up to four tokens in one envelope provided there are four application forms and four sets of 10 differently numbered tokens. Multiple and bulk applications from trade or social groups will not be accepted. 12. The offer is not available to employees of West Coast Trains Ltd, CrossCountry Trains Ltd or Times Newspapers Ltd. 13. All passengers must book outward and return seats reservations when they purchase their ticket. No break in your journey is allowed. You are liable to pay up to the full standard fare if you do not have a valid ticket. 14. Promotional travel is only valid on Virgin Trains services. Travel on any other operator's rail service will be charged at the appropriate fare for the journey. 15. When calling the Virgin Trains booking line, readers must verify their claim by quoting the personal number printed in their fulfilment guide.

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CHANGING TIMES

Human Rights Law Report

Removal of AIDS drugs courier breach Convention

D v United Kingdom
(Case No 146/1996/67/964)Before R. Rysdahl, President and
Judges C. Russo, A. Spielmann, A. G.
Baka, P. Kóris, U. Lohmus and J.
CasadevallRegistrar H. Petzold
Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney
Judgment May 21Removing a convicted drug courier
in the advanced stages of AIDS to
his country of origin, St Kitts,
would expose him to inhuman or
degrading treatment in breach of
article 3 of the European Convention
on Human Rights and Fundamental
 Freedoms.The applicant, D, was born in St
Kitts and appeared to have lived
there most of his life. He arrived at
Gatwick Airport, London, on January
21, 1993.He was refused leave to enter
and issued with a removal order,
having been found on arrival to be
in possession of a substantial
quantity of cocaine with a street
value of about £120,000.However, rather than being
removed he was arrested and
charged with illegally importing a
controlled drug into the United
Kingdom. He was convicted by a
London court in April 1993 and
sentenced to six years
imprisonment.In August 1994 the applicant
was diagnosed while in prison as
HIV positive and suffering from
AIDS. The infection appeared to
have been contracted some time
before his arrival in the United
Kingdom.He began to receive treatment
for the illness. His condition had
gradually deteriorated and he was
in the advanced stages of the
illness.A medical report dated June 13,
1996 indicated that his prognosis
was very poor and that his life
expectancy was limited to eight to
twelve months on present
treatment.On January 20, 1996, a few days
before his release on licence, the
immigration authorities ordered his
removal to St Kitts. On
February 2, the applicant applied
unsuccessfully to the High Court
for judicial review of the chief
immigration officer's refusal to
allow him to remain in the United
Kingdom on compassionate
grounds.On February 15, the Court of
Appeal dismissed his renewed
application for leave to apply for
judicial review of the decision on
the ground that the immigration
authorities had properly treated
his request as an application for
leave to enter.As such, they were not required
to take into account the official
policy guidelines on AIDS suffer-
ers, which only concerned the
taking of decisions or applications
to remain in the United Kingdom.The applicant was currently
living in special sheltered accom-
modation for AIDS patients pro-
vided by a UK charity and con-
tinued to receive medical treat-
ment for his condition.Shortly before the hearing be-
fore the Court of Human Rights on
February 20, 1997 he had been
transferred to a hospital and his
condition was reported to be giving
rise to concern.It was not disputed that his
already shortened life expectancy
would be further reduced on
account of the lack of medical
treatment and facilities for dealing
with his condition in St Kitts. The
applicant appeared to have no
close family members there, no
means of support and no
accommodation.The application to the European
Commission of Human Rights,
which was lodged on February 15,
1996, was declared admissible on
June 20, 1996.Article 3 of the Convention
provides: "No one shall be sub-
jected to torture or to inhuman or
degrading treatment or
punishment."In its report of October 15, 1996
the Commission expressed the
view, by 11 votes to 5, that there
would be a violation of article 3 if
the applicant were to be removed
to St Kitts; unanimously, that it
was unnecessary to examine the
complaint under article 2 (right to
life); unanimously, that no sep-
arate issue arose under article 8
(right to respect for private life);
and by 13 votes to 5, that there had
been no violation of article 13 (right
to an effective remedy).In its judgment, the European
Court of Human Rights held as
follows.

I. Alleged violation of article 3

The Court recalled at the outset
that contracting states had the
right, as a matter of well estab-
lished international law and sub-
ject to their treaty obligations,
Convention, to control the entry,
residence and expulsion of aliens.It also noted the gravity of the
offence which was committed by
the applicant and was acutely
aware of the problems confronting
contracting states in their efforts to
combat the harm caused to their
societies through the supply of
drugs from abroad.The administration of severe
sanctions to persons involved in
drug trafficking, including expul-
sion of alien drug couriers like the
applicant, was a justified response to
that scourge.However, in exercising their
right to expel such alien contrac-
ting states had to have regard to
article 3 of the Convention which
enshrined one of the fundamental
values of democratic societies.The Court noted that the prin-
ciple had so far been applied in
contexts in which the risk to the
individual of being subjected to
any of the forms of treatment
proscribed by article 3 emanated
from intentionally inflicted acts
of the public authorities in the
receiving country or from those of
non-state bodies in that country
when the authorities there were
unableto afford him appropriate
protection.However, given the fun-
damental importance of article 3 in
the Convention system, the Court
had to reserve to itself sufficient
flexibility to address the applica-
tion of that article in other contexts
which might arise.It could not therefore be pre-
sented as scrutinising an ap-
plicant's claim under article 3
where the source of the risk of
proscribed treatment in the re-
ceiving country lay in factors which
could not engage either directly or
indirectly the responsibility of the
public authorities of that country;
or which, taken alone, did not in-
fringe the standards of that article.To limit the application of article
3 in that manner would be to
undermine the absolute character
of its protection. However, in any
such contexts the Court had to
subject all the circumstances
surrounding the case to a rigorous
scrutiny, especially the applicant's
personal situation in the expelling
state.Against that background the
Court considered whether in view
of the applicant's current medical
condition and the situation which
awaited him in St Kitts, there
would be a real risk that his re-
moval to that country would
breach the standards of article 3.In that respect the Court noted
that the applicant's condition was
deteriorating and he had reached a
stage in his illness at which the
limited quality of life he now
enjoyed resulted from the sophis-
ticated treatment and medication
which he received in the United
Kingdom and the palliative care
administered by a charitable
organisation.The authorities had assumed
responsibility for treating his con-
dition since August 1994 and heconfronted death in a familiar and
compassionate environment. The
abrupt withdrawal of the current
facilities, through removing him to
St Kitts, would entail the most
dramatic consequences for him.Any medical treatment which he
might hope to receive in St Kitts
could not contend with the infec-
tion, which he might possibly
contract on account of his lack of
shelter and of a proper diet as well
as exposure to the health and
sanitation problems in the coun-
try.There was no evidence to sug-
gest that any family he might
possibly have in St Kitts would be
able or willing to attend to his
needs or that he would be guar-
anteed a bed in either of the
hospitals which reportedly cared for
AIDS patients.The Court stressed that the
conditions which confronted D in
St Kitts did not in themselves
breach the standards of article 3.
However, for the reasons stated,
his removal to that country would
expose him to a real risk of dying
in the most distressing circum-
stances and thus to inhuman
treatment contrary to article 3.In reaching that conclusion, the
court emphasised that aliens who
had served their prison sentences
and were subject to expulsion
could not in principle claim any
entitlement to remain on the ter-
ritory of a contracting state in
order to continue to benefit from
medical, social or other forms of
assistance. However, in the cir-
cumstances, the decision was
one that no reasonable secretary of
state could take.The Court considered that there
was no reason in the case before it
to depart from that conclusion. It
found that the Secretary of State
of Appeal had had regard to
domestic case law which required
it to submit the applicant's plightto the most anxious scrutiny on
account of the established risk to
his life expectancy.The substance of the applicant's
complaint had been examined by
the Court of Appeal which had the
power to afford him the relief he
sought. The fact that it did not do
so was not a material consid-
eration since the effectiveness of a
remedy for the purposes of article
13 did not depend on the certainty
of a favourable outcome for an
applicant; see *Vilvarajah* (at para
123).The applicant maintained that
the effectiveness of the remedy
involved first before the High Court
and subsequently before the Court
of Appeal was undermined on
account of their failure to conduct
an independent scrutiny of the
facts in order to determine whether
they disclosed a real risk that he
would be exposed to inhuman and
degrading treatment. He relied on
Chahal (at paragraph 151).However, the Court noted that
in that case the domestic courts
were precluded from reviewing the
factual basis underlying the na-
tional security considerations in-
voked by the Home Secretary to
justify his expulsion from the United
Kingdom. No such considerations arose
in the present case.The Court therefore concluded
that the applicant had had avail-
able to him an effective remedy in
relation to his complaints under
articles 2, 3 and 8 of the Convention
and there was accordingly no
breach of article 13.

V. Application of article 50

The applicant did not claim
compensation.Making an assessment on an
equitable basis, the Court awarded
the applicant expenses by way of
costs in the sum of £10,000. The
added tax which might be charge-
able less the amount paid in legal
aid by the Council of Europe.

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 12 1997

Court of Appeal

Doctrine of mutual wills

Goodchild and Another v
GoodchildBefore Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord
Justice Morritt and Lord Justice
Phillips
[Judgment May 21]The doctrine of mutual wills
required a clear contract between
the two testators that the wills
would not be revoked and would
remain unaltered. There was no
reason to import into that doctrine
the lesser requirements applicable
to the creation of secret and
constructive trusts.Where the evidence showed a
failure to make a clear agreement
for mutual wills, but the first
testator's understanding of the
effect of her will was such as to
impose on the second testator, free
as he was of any legal obligation,
a moral obligation to give effect to
what the first testator believed they
mutually intended, namely, to
leave their estates to their son, the
court could award financial provi-
sion for the son's maintenance
under the Inheritance (Provision
for Family and Dependents) Act
1975.The Court of Appeal so held
dismissing the appeal of the defend-
ant, End June Goodchild, and
the cross-appeal of the plaintiff,
Gary Jack Goodchild and Margot
Allison Goodchild, from Mr Justice
Carnwath (The Times December
22, 1996; [1996] 1 WLR 694 whohad held in a claim for financial
provision under the testator's will
Goodchild, inter alia, that identical
wills of Dennis and Joan
Goodchild, executed in 1988, were
not mutual wills binding on Dennis
after Joan's death, but that the
circumstances of the case justified
a claim by the first plaintiff, their
son, on his father's estate under the
1975 Act.Dennis married the defendant
Joan in 1961 but died a few
months later.Mr J. H. G. Summicks for the
defendant Mr Jeremy Gordon for
the plaintiff.LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT
said that the judge had held that
the identical wills of Joan and
Dennis were not mutual wills as
there was no clear agreement that
they were to be mutually binding.
He had nevertheless allowed a
claim by their son, Gary, on
Dennis's estate under section 2 of
the 1975 Act on the basis that Joan's
will was not mutual wills as the
wills were mutually binding im-
posed a moral obligation on
Dennis which was a special
circumstance exceptional enough
to justify the claim.The plaintiff's case was that it
was sufficient to show a common
understanding between the testators
at the time the wills were
executed; Mr Gordon drew an
analogy with secret trusts where
equity would not permit propertytransferred to another on the faith
of such understanding to be dealt
with differently from that under-
standing; see *In re Cleaver*, *dec'd*
[1981] 1 WLR 999, 997 and
Onaway v Norman (1972) Ch 698,
711.Furthermore, the taking of bene-
fit on the strength of a binding
agreement, and the creation of a
constructive trust; see *In re Dale*,
dec'd [1994] Ch 313 and the cases
cited there.His Lordship said that those
submissions founded at the same
point; as was put in argu-
ment by Lord Justice Morritt,
the reason why mutual wills were
to take effect, an agreement was
necessary, was that without it the
property of the second testator was
not bound, whereas a secret trust
concerned only the property of a
person in the position of the first
testator.For the doctrine to apply there
had to be a contract at law, see
Dale (at para 38) and the cases cited
there. In *Cleaver* there was specific
evidence as to the testators' mutual
intentions at the time the wills
were made, not so in the present
case.Even if a binding agreement
were not required, it would still be
necessary to prove that both testators
intended not merely that
Gary should be the ultimate
beneficiary but that the survivor
should not prevent that happening,
if he or she thought fit.There was no presumption that
a present plan would be im-
mutable in future. A key feature of
the concept of mutual wills was the
irrevocability of the mutual in-
tentions.Not only had they to be binding
when made, but the testators had
to have undertaken, and so had to
be bound, not to change their
intentions after the death of the
first testator.Although when Dennis and
Joan executed their wills they
wished Gary to inherit, and unbi-
nally intended, there was no express
agreement not to revoke the wills;
nor could any such agreement be
implied.The judge had properly directed
himself and was not shown to have
erred in principle or even to have
reached a conclusion that was
surprising or unwarranted. The judg-
ment was not only sensible; it was
unimpeachable.Lord Justice Morritt gave a
concurring judgment and Lord
Justice Phillips agreed.Solicitors: Porter Dodson,
Yeovil; Poole & Co, Yeovil.

Legal expenses tax deductible

McKnight (Inspector of Taxes)
v SheppardBefore Lord Justice Nourse, Lord
Justice Potter and Lord Justice
Mummery
[Judgment May 7]Legal expenses incurred by a
stockbroker in defending himself in
disciplinary proceedings against him
for alleged breaches of the Stock
Exchange rules and regulations were
deductible in computing the
amount of his profits chargeable to
income tax under Case I of
Schedule D. The finding of fact
that his sole conscious motive in
making the substantial expenditure
was to avoid destroying his
stockbroking business justified the
conclusion that it was laid out
wholly and exclusively for the
purpose of his trade within sec-
tion 130(a) of the Income and
Corporation Taxes Act 1970.The fact that the expenditure
had inevitably to involve his
personal reputation did not re-
quire making the inference of a
dual purpose for incurring the
expense, only one of which was for
the purposes of his trade.The Court of Appeal in reserved
judgments so held allowing an
appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Brian
S. Sheppard, from the decision of
Mr Justice Lightman (The Times
May 21, 1996; [1996] STC 627) that
he had reversed the determination
of a special commissioner (Mr The-
odore Wallace) that legal costs
exceeding £200,000 had been in-
curred by the taxpayer wholly and
exclusively for his trade.The taxpayer, who was partner of
a stockbroking firm, incurred the
legal expenses in defending him-
self, in part successfully and
thereby avoiding suspension from
trading, against allegations of mis-
conduct and gross misconduct
under the disciplinary provisions of
the Stock Exchange code of the
disciplinary appeals committee in1987. The tax inspector had refused
to allow the taxpayer's claim to
deduct the expenditure on the
ground, inter alia, that it was made
for non-trading purposes.Mr David Goldberg, QC, who
did not appear below, and Mr
Hugh McKay for the taxpayer; Mr
Timothy Brennan for the Crown.LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said
that the appeal gave the court an
occasion for reminding itself of its
limited function on hearing ap-
peals against the determinations of
special or general
commissioners of income tax; see
Edwards v Balfour [1956] AC 141.
The issue was a short one.The commissioner concluded
that suspension or expulsion
would have destroyed the tax-
payer's business, that it was for
that reason that he had incurred
the costs and that his personal
reputation was not a factor.It seemed clear from his decision
that the commissioner had been
engaged in the familiar exercise of
determining whether, in incurring
the expenditure, the taxpayer had
had a dual or a single purpose. In
other words it was both the
avoidance of the destruction of his
business and the preservation of
his personal reputation as an
individual or was it solely the
preservation of the latter being merely
an incidental benefit?The commissioner had directed
himself: First, by reference to *Morgan v
Tate & Lyle Ltd* [1953] AC 211 for
the proposition that expenditure on
the basis of the judge's decision
was that to be deductible, the
expenditure had not only to be
wholly and exclusively incurred
for the purposes of the trade, he
had held that that test was sat-
isfied, but he had sufficiently com-
municated with the carrying on and
earning of profits in the trade.
He had held that that connection

Whether act is wilful misconduct

Lacey Footwear Ltd v
Bowler and AnotherBefore Lord Justice Beldam, Lord
Justice Sedley and Lord Justice
Brooke
[Judgment April 18]Whether in any given circum-
stances the acts or omissions of a
person entrusted with the goods or
property of another amounted to
wilful misconduct had to begin
with an inquiry about the conduct
ordinarily to be expected in the
particular circumstances and by
then asking whether the acts or
omissions of the person whose
behaviour was called in question
was so far outside the range of
such conduct that it could properly
be regarded as "misconduct".An important circumstance in
any case would be a deliberate
disregard of express instructions
clearly given and understood.Further, a person could be said
to act with reckless carelessness
towards goods in his care if, aware
of a risk that they might be lost or
damaged, he nevertheless went
deliberately ahead and took the
risk when it was unreasonable in
all the circumstances for him to do
so.The Court of Appeal so stated in
dismissing an appeal by Bowler
International Freight Ltd from an
order of Judge Thompson, QC,
sitting as a judge of the Queen's
Bench Division, on April 7, 1996,
save as to reducing the damages
and costs awarded to the plaintiffs,
Lacey Footwear Ltd, from
£60,493.30 to £63,301.70.Mr Jeremy Carey for the plain-
tiffs; Mr Stephen Tomlinson, QC,

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

CENTURY LEASING CO
LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1000222
IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY
LIQUIDATIONNOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that in accordance with section 100
of the Insolvency Act 1986,
the Liquidator of the above
company has been appointed to
administer the assets of the
company and to distribute the
proceeds of the assets to the
creditors of the company.The Liquidator's office is at
100, Abchurch Lane, London
EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator's
hours of office are 10.00 am to
5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.
The Liquidator's telephone
number is 020 7454 1234.
The Liquidator's fax number
is 020 7454 1235.Creditors of the company are
required to submit claims to the
Liquidator by 21st May 1997.
Claims should be submitted in
writing to the Liquidator at the
address above.The Liquidator is not bound
by any claim which is not
submitted in writing to him by
the deadline date.The Liquidator is not bound
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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

CENTURY LEASING CO
LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER 1000222
IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY
LIQUIDATIONNOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that in accordance with section 100
of the Insolvency Act 1986,
the Liquidator of the above
company has been appointed to
administer the assets of the
company and to distribute the
proceeds of the assets to the
creditors of the company.The Liquidator's office is at
100, Abchurch Lane, London
EC4N 3DF. The Liquidator's
hours of office are 10.00 am to
5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.
The Liquidator's telephone
number is 020 7454 1234.
The Liquidator's fax number
is 020 7454 1235.Creditors of the company are
required to submit claims to the
Liquidator by 21st May 1997.
Claims should be submitted in
writing to the Liquidator at the
address above.The Liquidator is not bound
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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

BANKS				
132200 Bank of Scotland	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
132200 Bank of Scotland	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
132200 Bank of Scotland	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
132200 Bank of Scotland	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
132200 Bank of Scotland	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT				
170000 Balfour Beatty	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
170000 Balfour Beatty	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
170000 Balfour Beatty	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
170000 Balfour Beatty	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
170000 Balfour Beatty	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

BUILDING MATERIALS				
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

CHEMICALS				
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
452100 Alcon	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

DISTRIBUTORS				
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
160000 Baxendale	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

ELECTRICITY				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

ENGINEERING				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5

ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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HEALTHCARE				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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INSURANCE				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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LEISURE & HOTELS				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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MEDIA				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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SHORTS (under 5 years)				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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LONGS (over 15 years)				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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UNLISTED				
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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122000 Bass	10.50	+0.10	4.5	12.5
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ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Bank report will clarify rates view

The Bank of England's quarterly inflation report, published tomorrow, will give a firmer indication of whether the Bank feels that a quarter-point rise in rates is sufficient for the time being. It will also shed light on the Bank's views on the strength of sterling.

The Bank has been especially concerned about the inflationary impact of a tightening labour market during the last few months so the market's attention will also be closely focused on Wednesday's labour market statistics.

MMS International, the economic forecasting company, predicts that unemployment will fall by 30,000 in April, compared with a 41,000 fall the previous month. But average earnings should stabilise as the City bonus season comes to an end, although MMS predicts a slight rise to 5.25 per cent from 5 per cent.

The retail prices data, due to be published on Thursday, will show that current inflation remains subdued. Headline inflation is expected to fall from 2.6 per cent to 2.3 per cent. Underlying inflation — which excludes mortgage payments — could come in at 2.4 per cent, just below the Government's target figure of 2.5 per cent.

The producer prices figures for April, which are released today, will provide more evidence of the deflationary impact that the strong pound is having on factory-gate prices.

Factory-gate prices are predicted to show a rise of 0.5 per cent, compared with a fall of 0.1 per cent in March, but the annual rate is expected to remain unchanged at 1 per cent. Input prices are expected to show an 8.5 per cent fall year-on-year.

In the United States, tomorrow's retail sales figures will be closely monitored for signs of a slowdown ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting on May 20. MMS forecasts that sales in April will fall by 0.5 per cent compared with a rise of 0.2 per cent the previous month due to a big drop in car sales.

The producer prices on Wednesday and consumer inflation figures the following day will confirm that inflation remains under control. The April factory-gate prices are expected to show a small rise of 0.1 per cent, while CPI will remain unchanged at 0.1 per cent.

In Germany, the half-yearly tax estimates, due on Thursday, are expected to show the country on course to just miss the 3 per cent budget deficit target demanded by the Maastricht Treaty. But economists believe that the German Government will take immediate fiscal action to reinforce confidence in European Monetary Union proceeding on time.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

BT faces grilling on MCI alliance



Sir Peter Bonfield, left, of BT, and Dick Brown, of C&W: both report year-end figures

BRITISH TELECOM: Full-year figures on Thursday will give brokers a chance to quiz the board on prospects for the alliance with MCI in America.

Recent financial results from MCI left the market unimpressed. By contrast, NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for a reasonably solid performance from BT, whose chief executive is Sir Peter Bonfield. It is forecasting a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £3.5 billion to £3.62 billion, with earnings up just 1 per cent, from 36.7p a share to 37.2p. The overall picture is likely to be mixed with growth still being achieved through new services. Redundancy charges will be lower but higher than the original figure pencilled in by brokers. The final figure is expected to fall from £421 million to £365 million. BT forecast a final dividend of 11.95p at the time of the MCI acquisition making a total of 19.85p, up 6.1 per cent.

GRAND METROPOLITAN: Half-year figures on Thursday should reveal the early benefits of the group's recent change of direction. Solid organic growth, better return on capital and maybe even a share buyback are likely to be contained in the figures. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow 3 per cent, from £455 million to £469 million. But earnings growth, of between 14.8p a share and 15.2p, will be held back by the effects of a strong pound and the dilution from the sale of its European food operations. Another strong performance is expected from Pillsbury while Burger King will have outperformed McDonald's, its bigger rival. IDV should have benefited from a better pricing policy. The half-year payout will be pegged at 5.9p a share.

HANSON: These will be the first figures recorded since the group completed its four-way demerger. The City is looking for £85 million when the group reports on Thursday, with earnings of 8.5p a share accompanied by a payout of 4p. The boost to profits will come from improved trading conditions on both sides of the Atlantic for its aggregates business. But the problem of oversupply at Hanson Brick continues. For the full year the market is looking for profits of £236 million.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO: These are the first figures from the group since it was demerged from Hanson. Pre-tax profits on Wednesday are expected to run out at £143 million although operating profits are expected to show a 9 per cent increase at £90 million. The payout will be 9p. Imperial is now facing up to increased competition and may have to look ahead for future expansion. Sales of hand-rolling tobaccos continue to grow but the group will have done well to retain its share of the premium brand market.

ALLIED DOMESTIC: The City will be looking for signs of recovery after the recent decline

in profitability when half-year figures are published tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are likely to be marginally lower, at £319 million, compared with £321 million last time, while earnings remain unaltered at 19.2p.

The retail side will have benefited for the first time from the release of the beer provision set up after the disposal of its share in Carlsberg-Tekel, but spirits will suffer from the strong pound. The interim payment is expected to be unchanged at 9.4p.

CABLE AND WIRELESS: The year-end figures, due on Wednesday, will include the results of Mercury Communications for the last time. In April, Mercury

became part of Cable and Wireless Communications, the phone and cable group that is 53 per cent owned by C&W. Mercury's disappearance will not disappoint British Telecom has made its life miserable in recent years.

Analysts expect C&W, whose chief executive is Dick Brown, to report pre-tax profits of about £1.35 billion, up 7 per cent from the £1.26 billion earned the year before. The City will be looking for news on the future of Hongkong Telecom, C&W's largest business. There is speculation that C&W is willing to reduce its stake in the company in exchange for greater access to the Chinese market.

BOCGROUP: The strong pound will have caused problems for the industrial gases group and this will be reflected in a dull set of interim figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to be down by about £3 million, to £214 million, with earnings virtually unaltered at 28p. Even so, there should be scope for a 1p rise in the payout to 14.5p. In addition to the strong pound, the group will have also experienced a sizeable downturn in profits at its healthcare division, which is facing increased competition, especially in the anaesthetic market. Volumes among industrial gases will have improved.

SAFEGWAY: Brokers were expecting the worst from full-year figures due out on Wednesday, after its profit warning in February. Subsequent news of improved like-for-like sales trends from the other supermarket chains has allowed them a little more optimism. But they will not doubt still be paying close attention to detail of sales and margins. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow from £401 million to £427 million with earnings 10 per cent higher at 27.7p.

SCOTTISHPOWER: The market will be looking for fresh information about the integration of Southern Water. The group has already promised cost savings of £44 million by 1999.

Full-year figures on Thursday will contain just seven months of Southern. They should show pre-tax profits up 30 per cent at £579.7 million with earnings growth less spectacular. Brokers are looking for a 7 per cent increase to 39.9p. The payout is likely to rise from 15.5p to 18.5p.

BURTON GROUP: Despite an apparently subdued performance in the run-up to the Christmas season, the City is looking for a solid increase in profits when the group unveils half-year figures on Thursday. At the pre-tax level, profits should grow almost 23 per cent, from £85.1 million to £103.8 million, with earnings growth up from 4.5p to 5.2p. The debut of Racing Green and Innovations accounted for almost 4 per cent of the 11 per cent increase in sales announced in January. Burton is expected to increase the dividend from 1.15p to 1.3p.

TODAY

Interim: API, Diploma, London & Overseas, Final: DCC, Economic statistics: UK April producer prices index, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, EU finance ministers meeting in Strasbourg (to May 16), Bank of France discount Treasury bill auction, Bank of France, money market tender.

TOMORROW

Interim: Allied Domecq, Ashanti Goldfields (Q1), BOC Group, Fresenius Group, Glaxo Accident, Holmes & Marston, Sedgwick Group, Simma, Final: Time Products, Voyager European, Westbury, Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium retail sales survey, Bank of England to give details of gilt auctions on May 20 and 22, Bank of England inflation report, US April retail sales, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, French April provisional consumer prices index, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Bank of Ireland, Imperial Tobacco Group, Sage Group, Sanderson Electronics, Scottish Radio Holdings, Final: Cable and Wireless, Environmental Investment Company, Safeway, Economic statistics: UK April unemployment, UK March average earnings and unit wage costs, French February current account, US April producer prices index, US March business inventories.

THURSDAY

Interim: Burton Group, Capital Radio, Compass Group, Concentric, Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, Hay & Robertson, Mail (Q1), Majedie Investments, Tomlinson, Final: British Telecom, ScottishPower, Economic statistics: UK April retail prices index.

FRIDAY

Interim: Chrysalis Group, Overseas Investment, Final: Albany Investment Trust, Fine Art Developments, Ocean Wilson Holdings.

The Sunday Times: Buy

HSBC, Allied Domecq, Trocadero, FI Group, Sunday Express, Sell: Safeway, Wiggins, Hold: Rugby Estates, The Sunday Telegraph, Buy: Ladbrokes, Bryant, Queensborough Holdings, Harvey Nichols, Mail: Sell: Chemring, Commercial Union, Independent on Sunday, Buy: P&O, Sell: Eddie Hinds, Observer, Buy: ICI, Hold: BTR, Sainsbury, Mail on Sunday, Buy: Yorkshire, Hold: Electronic Boutique.

George: new power

Reform of the Bank of England was widely expected during the lifetime of a Labour government, but there was little indication in the election campaign that Gordon Brown would move quite so quickly. The announcement on Tuesday that Eddie George will take control of monetary policy was, not surprisingly, favourably received by the gilt market. The removal of political considerations from the interest rate decision was always going to be viewed positively; further encouragement was provided by confirmation that the existing target to keep underlying inflation at or below 2.5 per cent will be maintained. Ten-year yields, which traded just below 7.5 per cent in the aftermath of Labour's landslide election win, rallied down to 7 per cent after the change in monetary arrangements.

So far, so good for gilts. The risk is, of course, that an operationally independent central bank is more likely to act hawkishly on interest rates if it sees any threat of inflation. It is clear, for example, from "Edie" meetings that base rates would have been raised some months ago if Eddie George had been able to dictate monetary policy. This, coupled with Labour's determination to move speedily in key policy areas, suggests that the mini-budget due to be held in June could produce a thorough review of fiscal options. Most significantly, Gordon Brown will be painfully aware that failure to address the structural aspects of the budget deficit will heighten the probability of Mr George using his new power at the earliest opportunity.

In view of this, it now seems unlikely that the Chancellor's financial statement will be limited to a windfall tax, the "welfare to work" strategy and a cut in VAT on fuel. Although much speculation has surrounded the future of the dividend tax credit, Gordon Brown may see the personal sector as the more appropriate area on which to focus, given the economic climate. Abolishing Miras and the married couple's allowance could, for example, easily be justified on both political and economic grounds, and raise more than £5 billion for the Treasury.

Overseas investors are bound to be impressed by new Labour's assertiveness. The institutional change brings the UK that much closer to fulfilling the criteria for EMU, though joining in 1999 has been ruled unlikely. Even so, the credibility that overseas investors attach to policy-making now ought to be raised. Expectations of higher interest rates

much further, but, by the same token, it is unlikely to fall far. A combination of modestly higher interest rates, a tightening of fiscal policy and a stable pound should help to suppress any build-up of inflationary pressures, and this should be positive for the gilt market.

International developments are always critical to the gilt market and in this respect, the US bond market remains vital to the interest rate backdrop. After month upon month of negotiations, the idea of bringing the US budget deficit into balance in the medium term now finally lies within reach. Several more months of thrashing out details of a balanced budget lie ahead, but, ultimately, the deal will be beneficial for all bond markets. In the US, inflationary pressures are barely evident. What role the stronger dollar has played in subduing inflation is hard to say. However, at this late stage in the cycle, when, with the economy moving towards full employment, it is natural to expect inflationary pressures to be mounting, a strong dollar can only serve to keep these pressures at bay. The Federal Reserve is still likely to



George: new power

have already lifted sterling's trade-weighted index nearly 20 per cent in the past year. Of course, if the Government chooses to lean on fiscal policy to restrain demand, that will lessen the need for aggressive action on interest rates. If so, sterling is unlikely to rise

raise interest rates to slow the economy down. Although the bond market will surely fret over the prospect, bond market fundamentals — low and stable inflation and a rapidly shrinking budget deficit relative to GDP — mean that yields should not rise much.

Given this reassuring backdrop, can gilt yields fall further or is all the good news in the price? The gilt market is technically overbought and there is bound to be some short-term profit-taking. The more pertinent point, given the likely aspiration of joining EMU eventually, is how much more the differential between yields on gilts and German bonds can narrow. The experience of the formerly higher-yielding European bond markets suggests that the differential could narrow by at least another 20 basis points. However, with yields on German bonds expected to rise in response to a pick-up in economic growth as the year progresses, this narrowing in differential effectively means that ten-year gilt yields could end the year at 7 per cent.

MIKE LENHOFF AND SIMON RUBINSOHN
Capel-Cure Myers

Dow tipped to buy ICI Australia

By MARTIN BARROW

ICI AUSTRALIA is braced for a full takeover bid for the company, with Dow Chemical Co of America tipped as a possible bidder. The board of the Australian company is also considering a partial share buyback.

ICI Australia has been locked in talks with its financial advisers to plan the next move after a decision by Britain's ICI to sell its 62.4 per cent stake in the business, was announced last week.

The British company could raise about £1.1 billion by selling the stake, helping to offset the cost of the £5 billion purchase of Unilever's specialty chemicals businesses.

The disposal is expected to take place in July and the shares could be sold in more than one tranche. However, the board of ICI Australia believes there is a realistic chance a single buyer may emerge with a takeover bid for the whole company.

Warren Haynes, managing director of ICI Australia, yesterday said it was possible overseas interest could buy the whole company. "I suppose I shouldn't discount that as a possibility."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Buy	Buy	Buy
Australia \$	2.17	2.01	0.860	0.594
Austria Sch	13.16	12.83	3.295	2.979
Belgium Fr	36.42	35.99	2.50	2.27
Canada C	1.367	1.357	11.86	11.07
Cyprus Cyp	0.857	0.789	287.00	266.50
Denmark Kr	10.15	10.06	5.10	4.86
Finland Mk	6.78	6.78	345.00	324.50
France Fr	6.86	6.83	13.15	12.18
Germany Dr	2.46	2.46	2.44	2.34
Greece Dr	480	423	2267.99	2122.22
Hong Kong \$	13.25	12.12	1.714	1.580
Ireland P	1.17	1.03		
Israel Sh	5.77	5.12		
Italy Lit	265	267		
Japan Yen	210.50	194.00		

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading Friday.

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France	(Ffr)	1800	615	1091	871	331	322		
Luxembourg	(Lfr)	6164	615	5040	2625	1527	2811		
Netherlands	(Gfl)	775	505	428	124	238	188		
Spain	(Ptas)	72500	2000	4154	21848	12258	17143		
Switzerland	(Sfr)	309	400	400	100	100	100		
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	474	227	119.5	79.04	130		

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

TAPPEN

(a) The plug by which the rectum of a bear is closed during hibernation. The Swedish and Norwegian word for a plug. "The tappen is almost entirely composed of pine-leaves, and various substances which the Bear scratches out of the ants' nests."

TREY

(b) The three at dice or cards. In dice, that side of the die that is marked with three pips or spots. Also a throw which turns up this side. From the Old French and Anglo-French *treis* three. "There's luck under the deuce but none under the trey."

UTRUM

(c) A writ authorising the holding of an assize to decide the status of a property. Usually in assize of utrum. From the Latin neuter singular of *utrum* which or whether. "Assize of Utrum may not be brought by a vicar for a small pension paid to a religious house."

TINTO

(d) Spanish rough red wine, whence *Tent* as the English name. From *into* the Spanish for *tinto*, "a blackish wine in Spain". Also the name of a French wine. And one Portuguese meaning: "Tinto is a red Madeira wine, wanting the high aroma of the white sort; and, when old, resembling tawny port."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... c3 wins material, e.g. 2 Qxd5 cxd5 or 2 dxc3 Qxd5.

BY FRASER NELSON

THE Government's computer agency will today launch a guide aimed at solving the millennium computer problem. It says the guide could save British industry millions of pounds in fees to computer consultancies.

The guide, compiled by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, will be a DIY manual to help businesses to draw up a plan to correct the bug. The CCTA says the guide could save thousand of pounds for businesses which would otherwise

be making their first steps by seeking professional advice

The CTA said the guide will help managers to decide if they have a problem and to identify which parts of the business may be affected. It will also advise on millennium pitfalls: spending money on correcting computer systems which can be ignored or fixing systems due for replacement.

The CCTA emphasised that its manual is not official Government policy but a manual designed for the pub-

lic sector which is being made publicly available because it is relevant to all business.

A spokesman said: "As an agency, our objectives will be achieved if the public sector knows what to do in time. But most of the information we gathered was from the private sector and relevant to all businesses concerned about the problem."

The millennium computer bug is a simple logic flaw affecting systems that read years in a two-digit format. Many will be thrown into confusion when told the year '00' comes after the year '99.'

The CCTA's guide, which took eight months to produce, says the crucial points are:

☐ Managers take a direct hand in solving the millennium problem and do not leave it to the computer department.

☐ Action is taken immediately

Computer services groups are already planning to double their fees over the next 12 months.

□ A three-year plan is drawn up and a separate budget is earmarked to cover all eventualities.

□ Money is not wasted correcting systems due for replacement. Critical computer systems must be corrected first, it says, while many stand-alone systems can be ignored.

☐ Businesses ensure their clients and suppliers are also taking action, ensuring insulation from knock-on effects.

Shining lights: Nicholas Easton, left, and his father Leslie, who founded Versalite, are taking their stained glass company to the main market this summer through a

placing to raise £800,000. The two will become paper millionaires after the flotation, sharing a stake worth £3.2 million. Their company exports its col-

oured transfers to customers in 11 countries, and last returned profits of £163,000. It will be valued at £4.3 million with dealings beginning on Wednesday.

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

COMPLAINTS against British Gas, arguably the country's least popular utility, appear to have peaked, the Gas Consumers' Council reports today.

Latest figures show a fall in complaints against British Gas Services and British Gas Energy Centres in the three months to March 31. British Gas Trading, which deals with billing and gas supply, enjoyed a 7 per cent fall in complaints in March, although complaints rose 22 per cent over the full quarter, the council says.

The shift has been cautiously welcomed as a turning point by the council and British Gas, which has seen complaint levels soar in the past three years. In 1996 complaints against British Gas Trading rose by 103 per cent, to 34,211.

Phil Hamer, field director for the council, said: "The figures are still not good but compared with the problems there have been it is an improvement. It's an indication that maybe they have turned the corner in terms of improving customer services but, make no mistake, they've still got a long way to go."

A key problem was that customers were having to make several phone calls to answer queries rather than having them dealt with a "one-stop-shop" system, he said. The council blamed the

The council blamed the huge volume of complaints last year on the inadequacy of a new computer billing system, which sent out scores of incorrect bills and threatened some customers with disconnection. The problem is believed to have cost the company £80 million.

BY CARL MOITSHED

BRITAIN'S largest fund management groups are mainly ignoring calls from environmental lobbyists to discomfört Shell by supporting a church-sponsored resolution at Wednesday's annual meeting.

The resolution calls on Shell to improve its environment policies and to conduct an external audit on their imple-

mentation. In spite of attempts by lobbyists to mobilise pension fund trustees, most fund management companies have chosen to accept Shell's argument that directors should determine matters of policy without interference.

However, one leading fund management group was not satisfied with the Shell position and has chosen to abstain while sending a written

warning to the company. A spokesman said: "Shell have moved some way but we don't believe they have moved far enough. We have sent them a yellow card to say that if this issue comes up again we will not support them."

Shell has met with leading shareholders, who have been extensively lobbied by Pirc, the consultancy, as well as environmental and human rights

lobby groups such as Amnesty International.

One fund manager rejected the notion that environmental policy should be subject to shareholder vote: "If you think the company is badly run, you should replace the board."

Last week, the Prudential indicated that it would support the board, voting some 3 per cent of the stock of Shell Transport & Trading.

Pharmacia & Upjohn, the Swedish-US drugs group with headquarters in London, yesterday named Fred Hassan as its new president and chief executive. He succeeds John Zabriskie, who resigned abruptly in January.

Mr Hassan, 51, is executive vice-president of American Home Products. He has spent 26 years in the industry, including 17 years with Sandoz in America. He said that P&U faced "some clear challenges, but I am convinced of our strong fundamentals — global reach, a powerful R&D base and a solid new-product pipeline." Mr Hassan, a US citizen of Pakistani origin, was educated at Imperial College, London, and Harvard.

An array of trade barriers, from tariffs and local taxes to complex Customs procedures and even bribery, are hampering Britain's small export firms, a survey claims today. The British Chambers of Commerce found that 54 per cent of the smaller exporters questioned had come up against obstacles inside and outside the European Union that affected their ability to compete. More focus and resources to support the businesses was needed, it said.

Gallagher, the UK tobacco subsidiary of American Brands, is expected to give details on Wednesday of its £2.2 billion London stock market flotation. Gallagher controls 39 per cent of the British tobacco market, owning the Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut brands. The shares are expected to be priced around 320p.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

1987							1987							1987							1987						
High	Low	Mid cap (milions)	Price	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (milions)	Price	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (milions)	Price	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mid cap (milions)	Price	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E
139	100	18.30	18.30	+	5	10.2	242	205	1.60	18.30	+	5	10.2	242	205	1.60	18.30	+	5	10.2	242	205	1.60	18.30	+	5	10.2
150	135	20.00	20.00	...	...	...	144	114	2.00	144	...	...	...	144	114	2.00	144	...	...	...	144	114	2.00	144	...	...	...
160	145	21.00	21.00	...	...	...	150	120	2.20	150	...	...	...	150	120	2.20	150	...	...	...	150	120	2.20	150	...	...	...
170	155	22.00	22.00	...	...	...	160	130	2.40	160	...	...	...	160	130	2.40	160	...	...	...	160	130	2.40	160	...	...	...
180	165	23.00	23.00	...	...	...	170	140	2.60	170	...	...	...	170	140	2.60	170	...	...	...	170	140	2.60	170	...	...	...
190	175	24.00	24.00	...	...	...	180	150	2.80	180	...	...	...	180	150	2.80	180	...	...	...	180	150	2.80	180	...	...	...
200	185	25.00	25.00	...	...	...	190	160	3.00	190	...	...	...	190	160	3.00	190	...	...	...	190	160	3.00	190	...	...	...
210	195	26.00	26.00	...	...	...	200	170	3.20	200	...	...	...	200	170	3.20	200	...	...	...	200	170	3.20	200	...	...	...
220	205	27.00	27.00	...	...	...	210	180	3.40	210	...	...	...	210	180	3.40	210	...	...	...	210	180	3.40	210	...	...	...
230	215	28.00	28.00	...	...	...	220	190	3.60	220	...	...	...	220	190	3.60	220	...	...	...	220	190	3.60	220	...	...	...
240	225	29.00	29.00	...	...	...	230	200	3.80	230	...	...	...	230	200	3.80	230	...	...	...	230	200	3.80	230	...	...	...
250	235	30.00	30.00	...	...	...	240	210	4.00	240	...	...	...	240	210	4.00	240	...	...	...	240	210	4.00	240	...	...	...
260	245	31.00	31.00	...	...	...	250	220	4.20	250	...	...	...	250	220	4.20	250	...	...	...	250	220	4.20	250	...	...	...
270	255	32.00	32.00	...	...	...	260	230	4.40	260	...	...	...	260	230	4.40	260	...	...	...	260	230	4.40	260	...	...	...
280	265	33.00	33.00	...	...	...	270	240	4.60	270	...	...	...	270	240	4.60	270	...	...	...	270	240	4.60	270	...	...	...
290	275	34.00	34.00	...	...	...	280	250	4.80	280	...	...	...	280	250	4.80	280	...	...	...	280	250	4.80	280	...	...	...
300	285	35.00	35.00	...	...	...	290	260	5.00	290	...	...	...	290	260	5.00	290	...	...	...	290	260	5.00	290	...	...	...
310	295	36.00	36.00	...	...	...	300	270	5.20	300	...	...	...	300	270	5.20	300	...	...	...	300	270	5.20	300	...	...	...
320	305	37.00	37.00	...	...	...	310	280	5.40	310	...	...	...	310	280	5.40	310	...	...	...	310	280	5.40	310	...	...	...
330	315	38.00	38.00	...	...	...	320	290	5.60	320	...	...	...	320	290	5.60	320	...	...	...	320	290	5.60	320	...	...	...
340	325	39.00	39.00	...	...	...	330	300	5.80	330	...	...	...	330	300	5.80	330	...	...	...	330	300	5.80	330	...	...	...
350	335	40.00	40.00	...	...	...	340	310	6.00	340	...	...	...	340	310	6.00	340	...	...	...	340	310	6.00	340	...	...	...
360	345	41.00	41.00	...	...	...	350	320	6.20	350	...	...	...	350	320	6.20	350	...	...	...	350	320	6.20	350	...	...	...
370	355	42.00	42.00	...	...	...	360	330	6.40	360	...	...	...	360	330	6.40	360	...	...	...	360	330	6.40	360	...	...	...
380	365	43.00	43.00	...	...	...	370	340	6.60	370	...	...	...	370	340	6.60	370	...	...	...	370	340	6.60	370	...	...	...
390	375	44.00	44.00	...	...	...	380	350	6.80	380	...	...	...	380	350	6.80	380	...	...	...	380	350	6.80	380	...	...	...
400	385	45.00	45.00	...	...	...	390	360	7.00	390	...	...	...	390	360	7.00	390	...	...	...	390	360	7.00	390	...	...	...
410	395	46.00	46.00	...	...	...	400	370	7.20	400	...	...	...	400	370	7.20	400	...	...	...	400	370	7.20	400	...	...	...
420	405	47.00	47.00	...	...	...	410	380	7.40	410	...	...	...	410	380	7.40	410	...	...	...	410	380	7.40	410	...	...	...
430	415	48.00	48.00	...	...	...	420	390	7.60	420	...	...	...	420	390	7.60	420	...	...	...	420	390	7.60	420	...	...	...
440	425	49.00	49.00	...	...	...	430	400	7.80	430	...	...	...	430	400	7.80	430	...	...	...	430	400	7.80	430	...	...	...
450	435	50.00	50.00	...	...	...	440	410	8.00	440	...	...	...	440	410	8.00	440	...	...	...	440	410	8.00	440	...	...	...
460	445	51.00	51.00	...	...	...	450	420	8.20	450	...	...	...	450	420	8.20	450	...	...	...	450	420	8.20	450	...	...	...
470	455	52.00	52.00	...	...	...	460	430	8.40	460	...	...	...	460	430	8.40	460	...	...	...	460	430	8.40	460	...	...	...
480	465	53.00	53.00	...	...	...	470	440	8.60	470	...	...	...	470	440	8.60	470	...	...	...	470	440	8.60	470	...	...	...
490	475	54.00	54.00	...	...	...	480	450	8.80	480	...	...	...	480	450	8.80	480	...	...	...	480	450	8.80	480	...	...	...
500	485	55.00	55.00	...	...	...	490	460	9.00	490	...	...	...	490	460	9.00	490	...	...	...	490	460	9.00	490	...	...	...
510	495	56.00	56.00	...	...	...	500	470	9.20	500	...	...	...	500	470	9.20	500	...	...	...	500	470	9.20	500	...	...	...
520	505	57.00	57.00	...	...	...	510	480	9.40	510	...	...	...	510	480	9.40	510	...	...	...	510	480	9.40	510	...	...	...
530	515	58.00	58.00	...	...	...	520	490	9.60	520	...	...	...	520	490	9.60	520	...	...	...	520	490	9.60	520	...	...	...
540	525	59.00	59.00	...	...	...	530	500	9.80	530	...	...	...	530	500	9.80	530	...	...	...	530	500	9.80	530	...	...	...
550	535	60.00	60.00	...	...	...	540	510	10.00	540	...	...	...	540	510	10.00	540	...	...	...	540	510	10.00	540	...	...	...
560	545	61.00	61.00	...	...	...	550	520	10.20	550	...	...	...	550	520	10.20	550	...	...	...	550	520	10.20	550	...	...	...
570	555	62.00	62.00	...	...	...	560	530	10.40	560	...	...	...	560	530	10.40	560	...	...	...	560	530	10.40	560	...	...	...
580	565	63.00	63.00	...	...	...	570	540	10.60	570	...	...	...	570	540	10.60	570	...	...	...	570	540	10.60	570	...	...	...
590	575	64.00	64.00	...	...	...	580	550	10.80	580	...	...	...	580	550	10.80	580	...	...	...	580	550	10.80	580	...	...	...
600	585	65.00	65.00	...	...	...	590	560	11.00	590	...	...	...	590	560	11.00	590	...	...	...	590	560	11.00	590	...	...	...
610	595	66.00	66.00	...	...	...	600	570	11.20	600	...	...	...	600	570	11.20	600	...	...	...	600	570	11.20	600	...	...	...
620	605	67.00	67.00	...	...	...	610	580	11.40	610	...	...	...	610	580	11.40	610	...	...	...	610	580	11.40	610	...	...	...
630	615	68.00	68.00	...	...	...	620	590	11.60	620	...	...	...	620	590	11.60	620	...	...	...	620	590	11.60	620	...	...	...
640	625	69.00	69.00	...	...	...	630	600	11.80	630	...	...	...	630	600	11.80	630	...	...	...	630	600	11.80	630	...	...	...
650	635	70.00	70.00	...	...	...	640	610	12.00	640	...	...	...	640	610	12.00	640	...	...	...	640	610	12.00	640	...	...	...
660	645	71.00	71.00	...	...	...	650	620	12.20	650	...	...	...	650	620	12.20	650	...	...	...	650	620	12.20	650	...	...	...
670	655	72.00	72.00	...	...	...	660	630	12.40	660	...	...	...	660	630	12.40	660	...	...	...	660	630	12.40	660	...	...	...
680	665	73.00	73.00	...	...	...	670	640	12.60	670	...	...	...	670	640	12.60	670	...	...	...	670	640	12.60	670	...	...	...
690	675	74.00	74.00	...	...	...	680	650	12.80	680	...	...	...	680	650	12.80	680	...	...	...	680	650	12.80	680	...	...	...
700	685	75.00	75.00	...	...	...	690	660	13.00	690	...	...	...	690	660	13.00	690	...	...	...	690	660	13.00	690	...	...	...
710	695	76.00	76.00	...	...	...	700	670	13.20	700	...	...	...	700	670	13.20	700	...	...	...	700	670	13.20	700	...	...	...
720	705	77.00	77.00	...	...	...	710	680	13.40	710	...	...	...	710	680	13.40	710	...	...	...	710	680	13.40	710	...	...	...
730	715	78.00	78.00	720	690	13.60	720	720	690	13.60	720	720	690	13.60	720
740	725	79.00	79.00	730	700	13.80	730														

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OFT forces lender to alter policy on penalties

By Gavin Lamsden

CITY Mortgage Corporation, the US firm that specialises in lending to people on low incomes with poor credit ratings, has bowed to pressure from the Office of Fair Trading and is to stop levying excessively high penalties when loans are ended early.

The company has told the OFT that it will abandon its use of rule 78 from August 1. This rule, which was originally designed for short-term unsecured loans, has been exploited by several mortgage lenders when calculating redemption penalties.

CMC has been known to charge borrowers of £30,000 a total of £42,000 for leaving the loan in the first year. It said that it would probably replace

this with a penalty of six months' interest.

CMC's move follows a warning in February from John Bridgeman, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, to 50 lenders and brokers that he would revoke their credit licences if they continued to mislead borrowers. CMC, the largest lender in what is known as the subprime market, was widely believed to have been the focus of his attention.

In addition to rule 78, Mr Bridgeman was concerned about the high rates of undisclosed commission paid to brokers and the use of dual interest rates by lenders. These can double the amount borrowers have to pay if they default by just one day. CMC would not comment on whether it would change these provisions.

However, David Milton, a solicitor acting on behalf of the CMC Victims Association, said that the move would not stop legal proceedings against the company if it was not retrospective. He also condemned the company's power to increase the difference between its concessionary and standard rates.

Although it has only 30,000 borrowers, CMC has started 1,212 court hearings against defaulters in the past two years alone. Repossessions have totalled 154, although CMC is waiting to sell a further 108 homes it has seized. Despite this record, the company is still an approved lender on the Government's right-to-buy scheme, which allows council tenants to buy their homes.



Bridgeman: warning letter

Ban on beef fails to slow food exports

By Sarah Cunningham

BRITISH food and drink exports grew to more than £10 billion last year in spite of the ban on selling beef abroad.

Food From Britain, the export marketing consultancy, said that a 1 per cent growth in overseas sales to £10.1 billion during 1996 meant that Britain has retained its sixth place in the international exporters league. It estimates that British food and drink exports have doubled in the past ten years.

Exports to Japan rose 13 per cent, driven by the demand for British pork, prepared cereals and drinks. Germany, one of the country's most worried about BSE, increased its overall imports of British food and drink by 11 per cent while the US dramatically increased its imports of British cheese and beer, leading to a 9 per cent overall increase in food and drink imports.

France remains the largest importer of British food and drink, although its imports fell 2 per cent last year because of the beef ban.

Exports of British cakes, drinks and beers drove much of last year's growth. Food from Britain said. Last year's figures reflect nine months of the beef ban imposed on March 30, 1996. In 1995, beef exports totalled £600 million.

Booksellers urged to use the Internet

By Sarah Cunningham

TRADITIONAL booksellers must put more effort into selling on the Internet if they are to fight off the threats posed by the move into book retailing by supermarkets and by consumers' growing preference for videos, computer games and music, according to a report out today.

Corporate Intelligence on Retailing, the consultancy, says supermarkets now control 6 per cent of the book market, equal to £100 million in sales. Moreover, expenditure on books fell 4 per cent last year at the same time as spending on music, videos, computer games and other software rose 10.4 per cent.

Specialist booksellers who have tried introducing price promotions, larger ranges, in-store cafes and reading rooms, have not succeeded in reversing the trend, but Internet booksellers in the US have enjoyed huge success.

The report suggests that books are far better suited to Internet retailing than other products. There is no need to touch or try them on while the Internet's search facilities can help customers seeking a particular book. In the US, Amazon Books has sales of more than \$15 million in two years. In the UK, the Internet Bookshop, founded in 1994, is the only Internet-only book retailer. Sales are £568,000 but it still incurs losses.

Tight Budget and re-entry into the ERM may follow an independent Bank of England

Is Labour aiming for an economic triple whammy?



ROGER BOOTLE

Even though our performance since we left the ERM in 1992 has been extremely good, investors have been nervous that these gains could be thrown away, particularly under Labour. That is the main reason why they have demanded much higher interest rates on sterling debt than on international equivalents.

Now imagine the reaction of these same sceptical investors to Labour's first Budget. They have recently seen Mr Brown give up control of interest rates. Now they see him raise taxes, not to spend on Labour's pet projects, but rather to reduce borrowing, thereby following the dictates of sound finance and redressing the imbalance in the economy. Meanwhile, he pledges to maintain tight control of public spending and to rely on the radical reform of the welfare state which Labour is planning to release resources from the social security budget to put more money into education. Moreover, in pointed contrast to the situation in most of Britain's competitors, these plans will be pushed through by an extremely powerful Government, unfettered by looming elections.

It is a real danger with the tight Budget strategy. Consider the fears that have haunted investors over the years about the UK.

the Chancellor saying he favoured a "stable and competitive pound". But whether talk is effective depends on what lies behind it. There are countless examples of massive exchange-rate misalignments, which central banks and governments have been powerless to correct, not to mention Mr Lamont's attempts to keep the pound in the ERM by telling the markets that there was "not a scintilla of doubt" that we would remain in the system. A few days later, we were out.

But there is a key example of talk having a major effect. In 1990, the Treasury seemed to encourage the view that the pound would enter the ERM, but at a higher rate than the one ruling in the markets. It worked. Sterling rose and was then put in at the rate of DM2.95. A similar game could be played now.

Last week's story that a Labour source had let it slip that the Government may seek to take sterling back into the ERM at a central rate of DM2.50, may or may not have substance. Whether the slip was intentional or not, Labour may well be drawn inexorably in this direction.

What is the answer? It is to talk the pound down. Such a policy may already have begun with the Governor of the Bank referring to the level of sterling as "uncomfortable" and

This is how it would work. The markets would be encouraged to believe that we would re-join the ERM under the currently prevailing wide fluctuation bands (15 per cent either side of the central rate), in contrast to the 6 per cent bands when we were last in the system. If we joined at a central rate of DM2.50, then the upper limit would be DM2.90, well above the current rate. By itself, therefore, there is no necessary reason why expectation of ERM re-entry should affect the prevailing market rate at all.

But what information would it convey to the markets? It would say that the upside on the currency was severely limited. At the upper limit to the band, the Bank of England, aided by other central banks, would intervene to sell pounds. Moreover, conscious of the currency constraint, the Bank might have to go softly in raising interest rates.

Most importantly, the Government would have given a clear signal of the exchange rate at which Britain might eventually join EMU, namely DM2.50. If the market took this prospect at all seriously, and frankly it should, then it would have the effect of shifting the current market rate down towards the DM2.50 level. Last week, the markets were shocked by the new Government's boldness. But was that merely stage one? Is Labour planning a triple whammy — Bank independence, a tight Budget and re-entry into the ERM?

THE TIMES

YOU HAVEN'T MISSED THE TRAIN YET.

See page 39 for details.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar	1.6193 (+0.0013)
German mark	2.7421 (-0.0543)
Exchange index	98.0 (-1.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share	2360.3 (+52.9)
FTSE 100	4630.9 (+175.3)
New York Dow Jones	7169.54 (+98.34)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	19802.78 (+288.03)

Degradation, death, destruction: such fun

Definitely not a good week for culture, I'm afraid. Nobody turned up to see the Bolshoi dance, the Venice Opera House stood in smouldering ruins and the new, big-budget drama from the BBC, *The House*, a disaster for culture vultures then, but for sofa philosophers it proved something of a treat.

Last night's *Dancing for Dollars* (Channel 4) was a special delight, suffering from none of the drawbacks that normally afflict ballet documentaries, such as, er, ballet. This — to embrace the vernacular — was the story of a cultural cock-up, how the Bolshoi Ballet went to Las Vegas and discovered that nobody wanted to see them. It was almost as much fun as *The House*, the wickedly intrusive series about the Royal Opera House.

We found 44 percent of the audience, fumed Ed Martin, a man surely destined to walk away with

the prize for the world's most unlikely ballet impresario. Only a handful of delicious minutes earlier he had been all-American enthusiasm. "Everyone wants to see greatness — whether it's Super Bowl, the Olympics or ballet." A loyal band of investors were right behind him, to the tune of \$1.8 million. They didn't know much about ballet but they had been to a couple of great ice-skating shows. "If it was anything like that we thought we would surely enjoy it," said one elderly woman who gamely pitched up to watch her savings disappear in a flurry of furious subtitles.

"Where are the instruments?" "Where is the orchestra pit?" "Where is the set?" asked a succession of cross-looking Russians. Meanwhile, back in the booking office, Martin was already praying for a miracle. "If I don't pay them, the little shits will

not perform in Los Angeles." Opinion was split as to what precisely the problem was. As archive footage of earlier sell-out successes compounded the damage, the managing director of the Bolshoi blamed the decadence of Las Vegas: "Sitting down all day, pressing buttons — that's not culture, it's degradation." Martin, by contrast, was fast coming to the conclusion that the American public were far more discerning than even he had given them credit for. They knew the Bolshoi was not what it had been. "People believe this is the bullshit Bolshoi, not the real deal."

The local stage manager was, diplomatically, somewhere in between. "We had no class before, we've got a little bit now." His recipe for commercial success? "If there was a nude ballet, we wouldn't have a theatre big enough." Hold that thought, be-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

cause somehow it leads us to Jonathan Creek (BBC1, Saturday). It took up the idea that the respective heroines even share the same mansion block, as an off-beat drama considered sufficiently undemanding to get 11 million or so of us through Saturday night. But unlike its predecessor, it had a certainty of purpose and a sureness of execution that means, in

the looking-glass world of television ratings, it probably won't. So, as insurance, the producers made this feature-length, opening episode rather rude. The fact that I thought it was also rather good is, of course, entirely unrelated.

The victim fit was Saturday night, there had to be a victim was Hedley Shale (Colin Baker), an artist who conveniently specialised in the female nude, which meant the production could be littered with eye-catching canvases and glamorous models. Someone had shot him and if I tell you that the woman who did it was only a silk blouse and a revolver that rather captures the hubristic style of Marcus Morimer's direction. A kiss was not a greeting unless it was accompanied by a fondled bosom, a revolver not a revolver unless it was fired by toes attached to a very, very long pair of legs.

Now, all this enjoyable but gratuitous titillation may have

been to make up for the essentially untitillating nature of our central couple (fit was Saturday night, there had to be a central couple). Caroline Quentin and Alan Davies may be many things but conventionally sexy they are not, and for some time it looked like we might get through an enjoyable whodunit without any of that unresolved sexual tension stuff at all. But then David Renwick's otherwise-inspired typewriter ran away with him and, before we knew it, our couple were enjoying a significant moment over the levitation board.

With two comedians in the central roles, the producers wisely packed the cast with established character actors: Baker who despite his early exit managed to regenerate himself in time for last night's instalment of *The Knack*, Sheila Gish as his magnificently fearsome wife and Anthony Head as a

lascivious, bosom-fondling magician. But Quentin and Davies more than held their own in such company, with Davies in particular turning in a nicely understated performance as the trick-designing, windmill-dwelling Clink. Helped by Julian Stewart Lind's *catchy* reworking of Saint-Saëns's *Danse Macabre*, a promising start.

Until last night, my sum total of knowledge about *La Fenice*, Venice, was that it was burnt down last year, possibly by the Mafia. That remained the sum total of my knowledge for about 23 minutes of the distinctly unrevealing *The Works: A Death in Venice* (BBC2), when the building contractors — allegedly anxious to avoid fines for late completion — were added to the list of suspects. What else? A violinist played hauntingly amid the no-longer smouldering ruins — but we philistines knew that was going to happen.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (48183)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (56251)
9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (313678)
9.20am Style Challenge (857783)
9.45am Kibitz (732254)
10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (85541)
11.00am News (1) and weather (777338)
11.05am The Great Escape Magazine focusing on the real-life experiences of holiday-makers (713038)
11.35am Change That from Glasgow (634178)
12.00am News (1) and weather (830067)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (8048763)
12.35pm Going for a Song A new series of the antiques panel game (8498763)
1.00pm News (1) and weather (866398)
1.30pm Regional News (8672367)
1.40pm The Weather Show (8692763)
1.45pm Neighbours (1) (40812305)
2.10pm Quirney (861367)
2.55pm Through the Keyhole with Paul Rose and Lorraine Chase (8310560)
3.30pm Stepper on Style Recreate Victorian interior design (8454831)
3.30pm Playdays (8273831) 3.00 *Monter Cafe* (874725) 4.05 *The Big Top* Bear Show (853478) 4.10 *Casper* (4157015) 4.35 *50/50* (852880) 5.05 *Newsround* (1) (5644857) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (1) (8328582)
5.35pm Neighbours (1) (1) (203855)
6.00pm News (1) and weather (285)
6.30pm Regional News (367)
7.00pm Aunty's TV Favourites Griff Rhys Jones discusses his career; Jimmy Hill looks forward to the FA Cup Final; Tony Blackburn pays homage to H-D-H; a visit with Sir Jimmy Savile (1) (8580)
7.30pm Here and Now Investigation into the unacceptable level of violence faced by nursing staff in hospital accident and emergency departments, and a profile of Britain's only remaining lighthouse keeper as he prepares to leave his post, once and for all (1) (251)
8.00pm EastEnders Bianca is shocked when she pays Joe a visit and Grant tells Lorraine of his plans to play happy families (1) (2580)
8.30pm Only Fools and Horses One of Del's old flames turns up out of the blue. Will the fumes of love rekindle as Will Rodney and Grandad indulge any passion? (1) (1018)
9.00pm News (1) and weather (2857)
9.30pm Pinocchio Water Torture Michael Robinson asks who is to blame for the water crisis and challenges those who run the industry to defend their record (1) (424580)
10.10pm Alive (1992) with Ethan Hawke and Vincent Spano. A grim, fact-based drama about a group of South American refugees who survive a plane crash in the Andes and endure unspeakable hardships when the search party is called off. Directed by Frank Marshall (1052183)
12.10pm Absent Without Leave (1992) Craig Atkinson stars as a soldier who goes AWOL during the Second World War. Directed by John Hodge (328851)
1.15pm Weather (4641110)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your VCR to watch a particular programme. Tip in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video Programme are trademarks of Warner Development Ltd.

- 6.00am Open University: Images of Education** (842251) 6.30 *Mathematical Aspects* (1) (848838)
6.50pm Play and the Social World (1) (862251) 7.15 *News* (854541) 7.30 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (1) (807883) 7.55 *Blue Peter* (1) (116525) 8.00 *Bump* (317522) 8.25 *Open a Door* (1) (838102) 8.35 *Raccoons* (1) (826725) 8.50 *TVE* (79299) 9.30 *Idol Par* (751628) 9.45 *Watch Out* (7504183) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (21831) 10.30 *Go for It* (478337) 10.50 *Look and Read Special* (471831) 11.10 *Zig Zag* (858725) 11.30 *Ghostwriter* (2102) 12.00 *Teaching Today* (54873)
12.30pm Working Lunch (37305)
1.00pm History File (2257163) 1.25 *Landmarks* (7022025) 1.45 *Storyline* (86700725) 2.00 *Bump* (3005628) 2.05 *Open a Door* (3004258) 2.10 *Alas Smith and Jones* (734550) 3.00 *News* (1) (848857) 3.10 *The Phil Siggers Show* (716520) 3.20 *Blockbusters* (248869) 3.55 *News* (1) (5537831) 4.00 *Blockbusters* (551498) 4.25 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (5524367)
4.55pm Esther: Meeting the Queen Mother Anecdotes (412893) 5.30 *Today's Day* (744)
6.00pm The Simpsons (1) (478134)
6.25pm Space Precinct (1) (1) (84857)
7.10pm The Ben and Stimpy Show (1) (404388)



Carol Vorderman (7.30pm)

- 7.30pm Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide** A new six-part series presented by Carol Vorderman. Tonight, Anne McKeiville puts a home decorating software package through its paces (1) (853)
8.00pm Top Gear Motorcity: The Prodrive's new Subaru rally car; motorcycle world championship; 12.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 8.30 *Top Gear* (82178) 8.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 9.00 *Top Gear* (82178) 9.10 *Top Gear* (82178) 9.20 *Top Gear* (82178) 9.30 *Top Gear* (82178) 9.40 *Top Gear* (82178) 9.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 10.00 *Top Gear* (82178) 10.10 *Top Gear* (82178) 10.20 *Top Gear* (82178) 10.30 *Top Gear* (82178) 10.40 *Top Gear* (82178) 10.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 11.00 *Top Gear* (82178) 11.10 *Top Gear* (82178) 11.20 *Top Gear* (82178) 11.30 *Top Gear* (82178) 11.40 *Top Gear* (82178) 11.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 12.00 *Top Gear* (82178) 12.10 *Top Gear* (82178) 12.20 *Top Gear* (82178) 12.30 *Top Gear* (82178) 12.40 *Top Gear* (82178) 12.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 1.00 *Top Gear* (82178) 1.10 *Top Gear* (82178) 1.20 *Top Gear* (82178) 1.30 *Top Gear* (82178) 1.40 *Top Gear* (82178) 1.50 *Top Gear* (82178) 2.00 *Top Gear* (82178) 2.10 *Top Gear* (82178) 2.20 *Top Gear* (82178) 2.30 *Top Gear* 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ROGER BOOTLE 45

Is Labour aiming for an economic triple whammy?

BUSINESS

FILM DRAMA 46

Why the Brits are coming to Cannes



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

Pound faces pressure as Bank steers away from higher rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE POUND is expected to face a bumpy ride again this week after Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hinted that the Bank was satisfied with last week's quarter-point rise in base rate.

The Bank issues its quarterly inflation bulletin tomorrow — its first since it won operational independence from the new Government. It is expected to say there is no immediate need to raise rates further.

Sterling came under pressure last week after rumours that the Government may re-enter the European exchange-rate mechanism at DM2.50 and a sustained sell-off of the US dollar on foreign exchanges. The pound fell eight pence from a post-ERM high of DM2.82 to finish the week at DM2.74.

The Treasury has fiercely denied any plans to re-join the ERM, but the market believes that Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be more comfort-

able with a level closer to DM2.50. Mr George also welcomed the recent fall in the pound, although he made clear that the Bank has no intention of intervening on the foreign exchanges. He added that a lower pound could open the door for further interest rate rises later in the year.

Mr George believes that sterling's strength, based on its safe haven status in Europe and the fact that the UK economy is running ahead of the rest of Europe and Japan, could soon evaporate. The dollar,

which the pound has tracked closely in recent months, is also expected to fall, with expectations of US interest rate rises receding and rates tipped to rise in Japan. Forex analysts calculate that the pound is still overvalued by about 10 per cent.

Labour's stock market honeymoon, which has seen the FT-SE 100 hit six consecutive new highs, may also end after suggestions yesterday that the planned mini-Budget may be more radical than expected. Mr Brown has also signalled

that he is preparing a big overhaul of the corporate taxation system. Advance corporation tax (ACT) is likely to be the main target, although there is growing concern that corporation tax could also be raised. Analysts believe that abolition of ACT could knock about 5 per cent off share prices as pension funds move out of high-dividend stocks into other investments.

Mr Brown is in Brussels today for the first meeting of European finance ministers since the election. Most of the

important single currency business will be held over to the Amsterdam summit next month, but markets believe that the meeting will give Mr Brown a chance to show his pro-European credentials.

Mr Brown is expected to sign two technical agreements, which had been held up by the previous Conservative Government, giving legal status to the euro. His support for a deal ensuring continuity of financial contracts under a single currency would please the City.

Labour ready to shake up jobless count

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to launch an urgent review of Britain's unemployment figures, which is likely to result in radical changes to the way that they are compiled and calculated.

The review is intended to restore credibility to key figures, which are widely regarded as compromised. One minister said: "We have to get these figures right. So we must set a new benchmark."

The shake-up will be announced on Wednesday with the latest unemployment figures. These are expected to show a further fall from their current level of 1.7 million. Ministers accept the move, when completed, could lead to a nominal increase in unemployment under Labour.

In opposition, Labour was highly critical of the unemployment figures, insisting that the previous Government's 30-plus changes, since 1979, to the way that they are produced means they do not give a true picture of the number of people out of work.

While ministers recognise that rectifying what they have called the "fiddled" figures on unemployment will be politically difficult, they are determined to restore public credibility to what even independent ob-

servers believe has become a debased set of statistics.

Ministers recognise that, by removing the compilation of the unemployment figures from the old Department of Employment and making them the responsibility of the Government's Office for National Statistics (ONS), their standing has been improved because, in part, they have been removed from political interference. But they believe there is more that can be done.

In redistributing some employment responsibilities around Whitehall, including charging the Department of Trade and Industry rather than the Department for Education and Employment with the duty of introducing a national minimum wage, Labour strategists rejected any idea of bringing responsibility for the unemployment figures back into the Education and Employment Department.

The rapid but thoroughgoing review of the jobs totals will draw on work carried out by the ONS, as well as the independent Royal Statistical Society. Studies by both, as well as a range of other analyses, recognise the drawbacks in using the current figures on the number of people out of work and claiming benefit as the principal measure of unemployment.

The new Government's review will look at the range of unemployment figures published in the United States, which measures joblessness in half a dozen ways, depending on the definition used to say who is without work. Similar measures are now published in Britain by the independent Employment Policy Institute.

The review is unlikely to recommend the abolition of the monthly count of claimants, which is a necessary administrative check on the level of benefit being paid out. But it will examine closely the groups of people excluded from claiming benefit, as well as the administrative targets set for the Employment Service to reject automatically a number of people making efforts to claim benefit.

The review of the unemployment figures is in line with the Government's wider intention of putting the ONS on a different footing, with a commitment to create a fully independent National Statistical Service.

Pay settlements in the private sector are nudging upwards, *Incomes Data Services*, the wage research company, says today, with three quarters of firms now paying rises of 3 to 4 per cent. A new study published today by Warwick University says that Europe's working time directive could be a "blessing in disguise" for British industry if it encourages employers in the United Kingdom to take more seriously the issue of time at work.



Helen Liddell, right, with Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is calling in pension chiefs

Minister carpets pension chiefs

By ROBERT MILLER

A TREASURY minister has summoned the leaders of Britain's life and pensions companies to demand a prompt resolution of the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

After only a week in office, Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday announced that leaders of 25 of the top UK life companies have been called to a meeting on Wednesday. Ms Liddell, already described by Treasury insiders as a "serious toughie", will tell the chief

executives that efforts to compensate an estimated 550,000 victims, who include miners, nurses, teachers and police officers, have been "pathetic". The minister, who cannot fine or discipline mis-sellers, will say that the way in which the mis-selling scandal has been tackled will affect the shape of new financial services legislation which is to be drawn up next year. The legislation will also reflect how watchdogs handle future disciplinary problems. Only 7,000 of more than

half a million victims have so far been compensated for having been wrongly advised to transfer out of generous occupational or company pension schemes — or not join in the first place — in favour of personal pension plans. Before meeting pension mis-sellers, Ms Liddell will hold talks with Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which polices firms that sell direct to the public and is overseeing the bulk of the pensions mis-selling review.

Since January, Ms Bowe has held individual meetings with 25 of the life and pensions companies and independent financial advisers at which she has expressed concern at the lack of progress in compensating victims. The industry bill for compensation and costs associated with the review is expected to top £4 billion. Ms Bowe has already demanded from each company a business plan on how it intends to make "substantial progress" by the end of the year.

Shares in Halifax head for £6 launch

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

HALIFAX shares could start trading at £6 next month, about 146p more than originally forecast. Anticipating a shortage of stock in the converting building society, institutional investors are being forced to up their bids ahead of an auction to be held at the end of the month, analysts say.

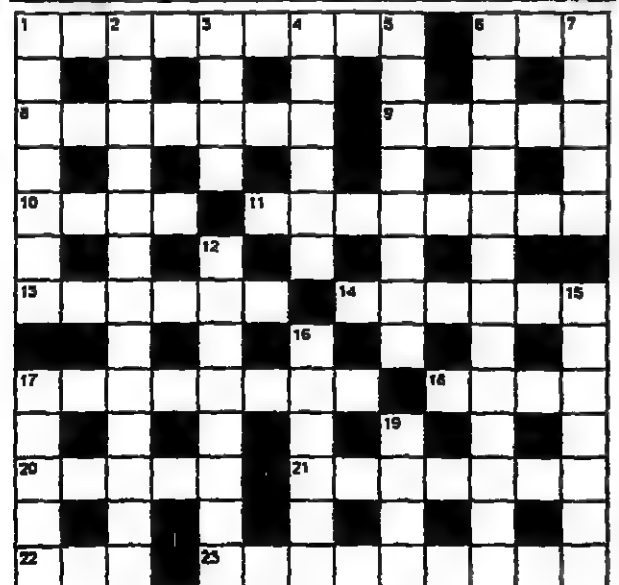
This would give the society's 8.5 million members a minimum standard distribution worth £1,200.

Alliance & Leicester's share price has risen 100p since its flotation on April 21 as institutional investors fight to get the stock they did not get at auction. Although 26.9 per cent of A&L shares went under the hammer, Mercury Asset Management walked away with the lion's share and is now believed to hold an 8 per cent stake in the new bank on behalf of clients.

James Johnson, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said: "Market-makers don't want to be caught short and driving each other up. There is also the suggestion that there will be less Halifax stock available, perhaps only 20 per cent, because of the variable distribution of shares. People with big accounts will get a bigger allocation and will be less inclined to sell straightaway."

The buoyant market and the strength of the financial sector means shares will probably soar from this level. Shares in the Woolwich Building Society, which floats in July, could start trading at 250p, compared with the society's original estimate of 185p, netting members £1,125.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1091

ACROSS

- 1 Beauty queen (4,5)
- 6 Inn (3)
- 8 Tensely repressed (7)
- 9 Unsettled; to wash (5)
- 10 The next in line (4)
- 11 Wave menacingly (8)
- 13 Powerful (6)
- 14 At the back of (6)
- 17 Computer-printed document (4,4)
- 18 Personal accessory; some honey (4)
- 20 Muslim decree (5)
- 21 Tennyson poem: Joyce book (7)
- 22 Throw; bashful (3)
- 23 With keen vision (5-4)

DOWN

- 1 Somerset — author/playwright (7)
- 2 Comfortably placed (7,6)
- 3 Carry on earnings (4)
- 4 Go back; cease work (6)
- 5 Wine-holder (8)
- 6 Most steeply, hastily (1,3)
- 7 Clump; collection (5)
- 12 Enclosure of stakes (8)
- 15 Adulterated (7)
- 16 (Trap) suddenly closed; Hopkins' poetic rhythm (6)
- 17 Blows heavily; penalises at draughts (5)
- 19 Use keyboard (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1090

ACROSS: 1 Rash 3 Barbados 8 Skim 9 Coq au vin 11 My Fair Lady 14 Rarity 15 Valour 17 Belongings 20 Aperitif 21 Four 22 Problems 23 True
DOWN: 1 Rosemary 2 Spiffire 4 Apollo 5 By and large 6 Dove 7 Sung 10 Fit the bill 12 Downpour 13 Preserve 16 Podium 18 Carp 19 Zero

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Sir Rocco set to check in as chief of Tory coffers

By PATIENCE WHEATCROFT CITY EDITION

SIR ROCCO FORTE is likely to be charged with restoring the Tory party's finances after its extensive election defeat.

Sir Rocco has been approached by Tory chiefs and is said to be keen to take on the role. The former chairman of Forte, the giant hotels and catering business, Sir Rocco last year lost a hard-fought £3.9 billion bid battle against Granada. Gerry Robinson, executive chairman of Granada, was one of the most high-profile businessmen to declare himself a supporter of Tony Blair in the run-up to the election.

Sir Rocco, currently building a new hotel business backed by family and City money, would replace Lord Hambro as Conservative Treasurer. It is also thought that Lord Harris of Peckham,



Forte: keen contender

the carpet millionaire who did most to restore Tory coffers recently, has decided that his fundraising efforts for the party may now be exhausted. The appointment of Treasurer is likely to be announced soon after the party leadership

issue is decided. Lord Hambro has been Treasurer for about four years. His family bank, of which he is chairman, is caught up in the City scandal over the stillborn takeover bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Hambros Bank has brought in a City firm of lawyers to conduct an internal investigation into how the bank conducted itself during the preparations for the bid by Andrew Regan and his Lantic organisation. Confidential documents were taken from the Co-op, used in the preparation of the bid and circulated among rivals.

Sir Rocco has been re-establishing a presence in the hotel industry. He has already announced two hotel projects and a restaurant in the UK and within the next couple of months hopes to conclude the purchase of at least two hotels on the Continent.

And the winners are...

By ERIC REGULY

THE backbone of a genuine British film industry will be formed this week when the Arts Council awards up to £150 million in lottery money to four of 37 British film consortiums created to bid for the funds. The backers include Ewan McGregor, Elton John, and Richard Branson.

Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Council's Film Advisory Board, will announce the winning consortiums on Thursday afternoon at the Cannes Film Festival. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage, is expected

at his side. Each of the four winners will receive up to £39 million over six years. The money will be used to help finance a long list of British films that the Arts Council hopes will keep another wave of British film talent from fleeing to Hollywood.

The consortiums bring together producers, financiers and distributors. Most UK film companies are weak in crucial areas, most notably international distribution. Studio Pictures, whose backers include Ewan McGregor, star of *Trainspotting*, has

recruited Alliance Communications, of Toronto, for international and Electric Pictures for domestic distribution.

The Double Negative consortium (its together Working Tide Films, the producer of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, and Polygram, one of the world's largest film distributors. The Partners in Film Consortium includes Elton John's Rocket Pictures, the First Independent Distribution company and Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank.

Cash in the can, page 46

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TIMES 128

Clinton challenges Whitewater call to surrender notes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Whitewater affair flared into a public clash yesterday between President Clinton and Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over disputed notes involving the investigation of Hillary Clinton.

Mr Starr claimed that the White House refused to surrender notes of her conversations with its lawyers, on the ground of privilege, was impeding his investigation.

In a speech to newspaper editors in Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas, Mr Starr declared: "Never in history has this kind of privilege been asserted in a federal criminal proceeding." Mr Starr's claim may be true in the strictest sense, but Richard Nixon did make much the same argument in vainly trying not to hand over his tapes - giving Whitewater an echo of Watergate.

Mr Clinton, in Barbados, said he was advised not to

surrender the notes because the issue was a "major constitutional question". It was "nonsense", for Mr Starr to claim that his investigation had been hindered, said Larry Davis, a White House counsel. Rather, Mr Starr had created the dispute by embarking on a "fishing expedition" for documents.

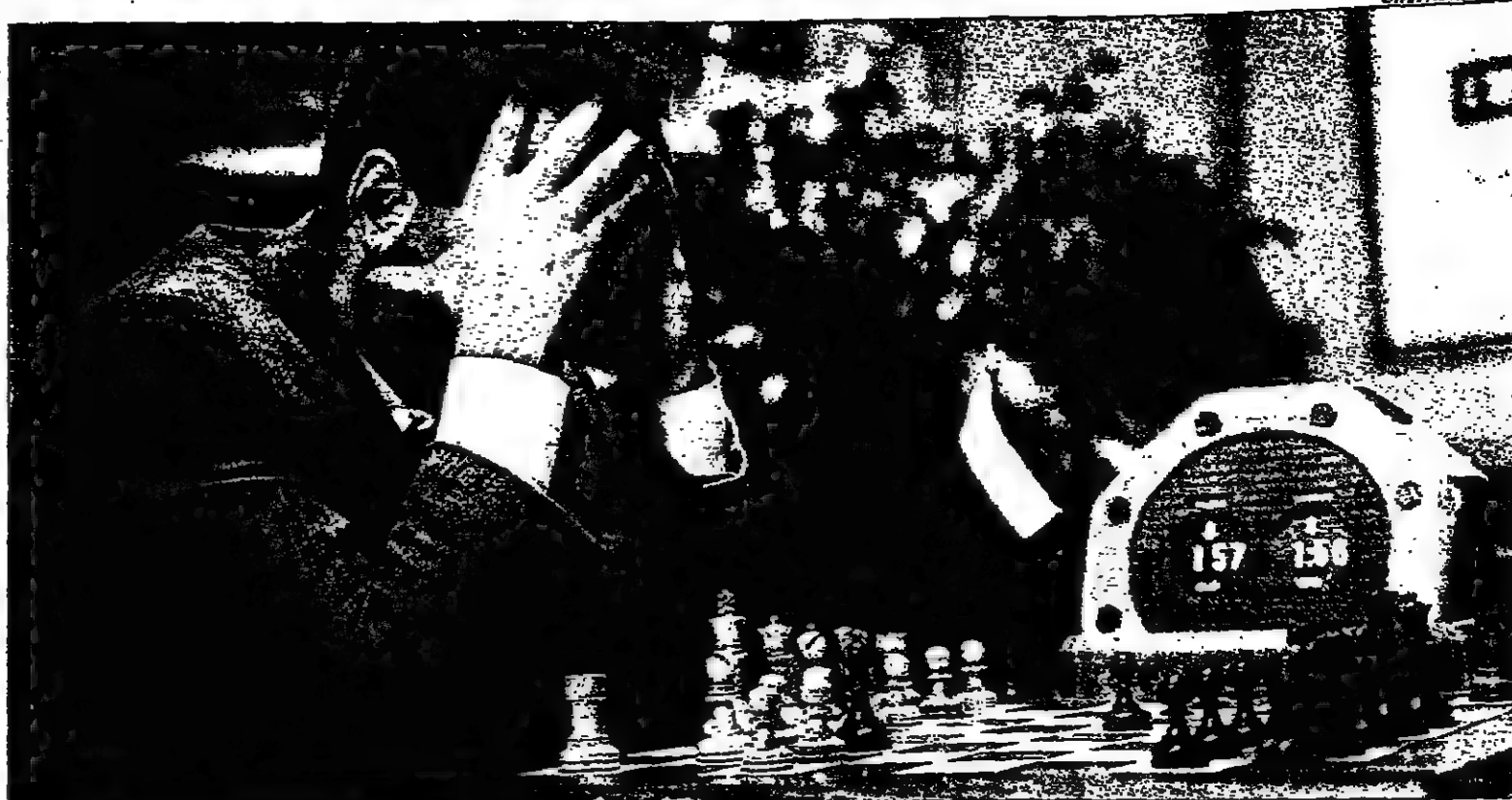
In recently unsealed court papers, Mr Starr said Mrs Clinton's testimony "had changed over time, reinforcing speculation that Mr Starr may be trying to indict her for obstruction of justice."

Mr Starr is seeking two sets of lawyers' notes from meetings with Mrs Clinton. The first concerns her activities after the death by gunshot wound of Vincent Foster, deputy White House counsel. His death was ruled a suicide. The second deals with missing billing records, later found in the White House private quarters, from the Rose Law Firm

in Little Rock where Mrs Clinton and Foster had been colleagues.

Mr Starr argues that Mrs Clinton's discussions were not privileged because they were with government lawyers, not her private ones. An appeal court ruled in his favour, saying that to use government attorneys as a shield against producing information in a criminal investigation would be a gross abuse of public funds. The White House will appeal to the Supreme Court against the ruling today.

Washington is puzzling over Mr Starr's motive. The information he seeks was apparently covered by Mrs Clinton during her testimony to a Washington grand jury last year. It is unclear why he wants the information again unless, as some lawyers speculate, he failed to win an indictment from the grand jury and is trying with a second grand jury.



Garry Kasparov goes into battle for the honour of humanity in New York yesterday in the decisive game of his chess duel with the IBM computer Deep Blue (James Bone writes).

The world's greatest chess champion laboured under the disadvantage of playing black in the final encounter of the six-game match, with the score even at one win each and three draws. The match became a contest

Kasparov makes his last stand

between the nimble, intuitive play of the Russian grandmaster and the brute force of his silicon rival, which can calculate 200 million positions a second. Kasparov beat an earlier version of Deep Blue in Philadelphia last year, but he speaks with awe about the latest machine. Chess

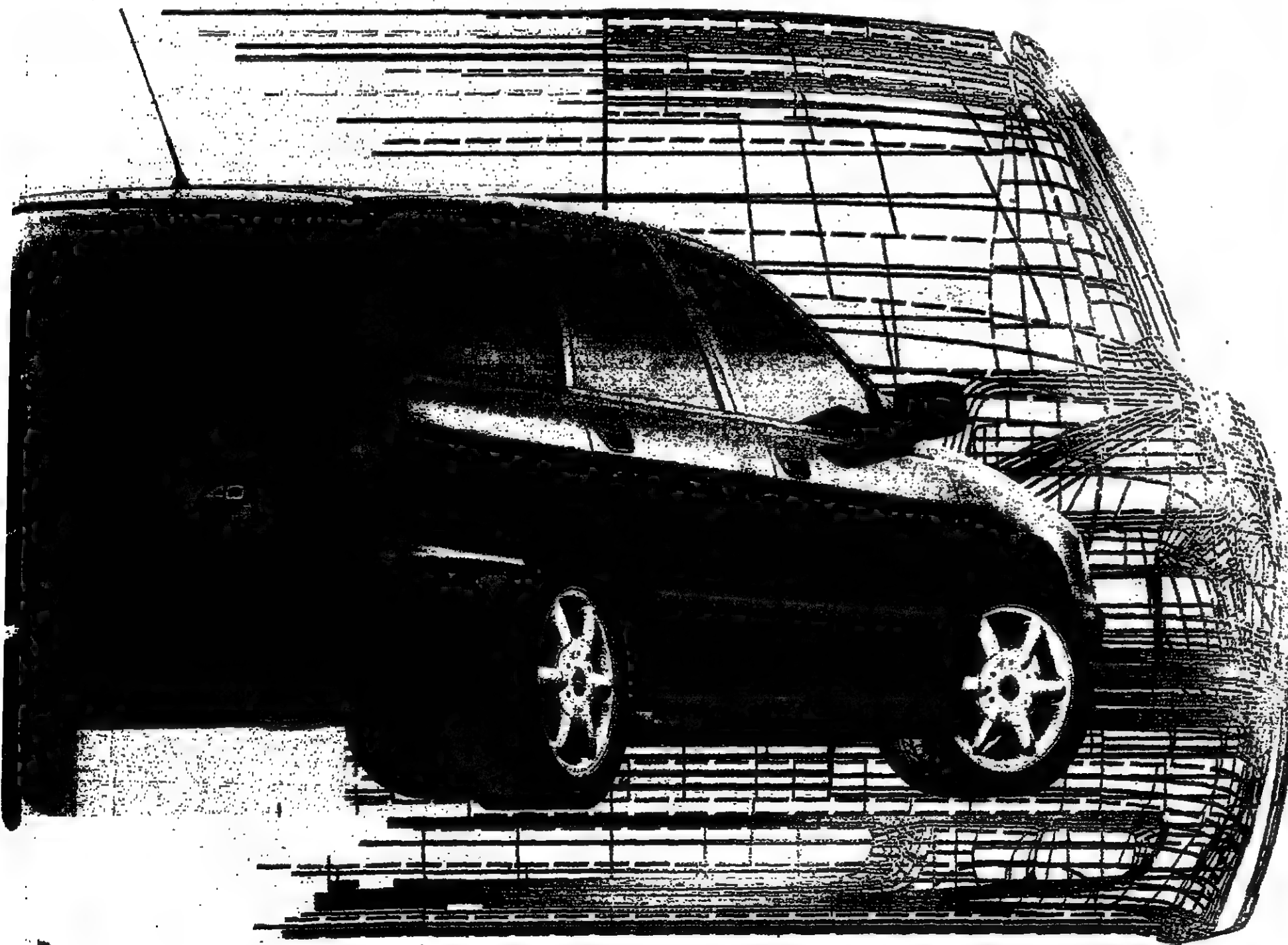
experts lament that the super-computer is squeezing the creativity of the game into an ever-narrower section of the middle game, and predict darkly that chess may one day no longer be considered difficult enough to play. Even at speeds far faster than Deep Blue, however, it

would still be impossible for a computer to calculate all the estimated 10¹²⁰ possible paths through a typical chess game.

The champion told a cheering crowd before the match: "I am not afraid to admit that I am afraid. It definitely goes beyond any chess computer in the world."

Chess report, page 37

IT'S BUILT ALONG THE SAME LINES AS OUR BIG ESTATES.
BUT WITHOUT ALL THE STRAIGHT LINES.

VOLVO
740

Titanic's salvagers attacked

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE controversial effort to salvage the *Titanic* has been denounced by an international museum group for its mishandling of recovered artefacts.

Kevin Fewster, president of the International Congress of Maritime Museums, told *The New York Times* that items from the wreck lie "scattered across at least eight cities on both sides of the Atlantic".

He said RMS *Titanic*, the New York-based salvage company, had shown no commitment to "unifying the mass of dive data" although such work would require only two maritime experts and cost \$150,000 (£93,000) - a fraction of the \$20 million the firm has spent on the project. The museum association is opposing the largest American exhibition of *Titanic* artefacts until the company improves its preservation record.

The show, in the basement of a Memphis sports arena, presents some 300 objects, ranging from gold coins to a steward's jacket. About 4,000 items have been retrieved from the liner, which sank on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912 with the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

RMS *Titanic* says that its top priority has been to conserve objects raised from the wreck and to share them with the public, but insists that it is also committed to providing data to scholars.

Pentagon in moral combat

BY IAN BRODIE

THE American armed forces, struggling to cope with recent sex scandals and an influx of women recruits, will try to clarify its rules governing relationships within the forces.

At present the military frowns on what it calls fraternisation between those of differing rank. These rules, the Pentagon said yesterday, were written for combat situations where a relationship could complicate an officer's decision about sending someone into danger.

With the Cold War over, some argue that the rules are too rigid for a largely peaceable world. They are also confusing.

The army, for example, allows dating between officers and other ranks who are assigned to different units. Other branches of the services, however, prohibit any such close relationship and court-martials those involved.

The Air Force, the least forgiving service, faces damaging publicity over its pending court martial of the first woman to earn her pilot's wings to fly the B52, an eight-engined bomber.

The defendant, Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, is accused of adultery with a civilian who admits he lied to her that he was legally separated from his wife and getting a divorce. If found guilty, she could be imprisoned and dismissed from the service.

Fiji seeks to reforge link to the Crown

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TEN years after it became a republic, Fiji is negotiating for readmission to the Commonwealth, with its political leaders calling for the Queen to return as the island's constitutional monarch.

General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the 1987 coup against the Crown that led to Fiji's expulsion, has had quiet talks in Luxembourg with senior Commonwealth officials and is likely to make a formal application to be laid before the Commonwealth heads of

government meeting in Edinburgh in October. His move is said to have delighted the Queen, the head of the Commonwealth, and the Prince of Wales has told diplomats that he welcomed it.

The 1987 coup was largely due to resentment in Fiji at the growing influence of the Indian population, who then made up almost half the population. A revolt supported by indigenous islanders overthrew the government and proclaimed a republic.

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Bonn's springtime for euro is overshadowed by cloud of sceptics

There is no mistaking German glee about Tony Blair. For many months the Bonn line was that he would represent a welcome change, but only in tone, not in substance. Now the talk is of deals about to be clinched, not of mood music. It is clear that Helmut Kohl's office deliberately played down its real, very high expectations of a Labour Government, lest overt support from Bonn should backfire in the election campaign. Normally sober officials are throwing open their Rhine-facing windows and bursting into song: spring has sprung for the euro.

Ordinary Germans remain suspicious. That is beginning to worry the European Commission, which is sponsoring a rolling series of "European Weeks" throughout Germany. No expense is being spared to stamp out German scepticism. In Berlin last week the euro was accepted as the coin of the realm by more than 50 supermarkets, boutiques and restaurants. More than 13 million pseudo-euros were minted — with the Brandenburg Gate on the reverse — special cash tills were installed, while menus and price lists were posted in marks and euros. A McDonald's hamburger

INSIDE

Roger Boyes

GERMANY

with chips and ice cream cost four euros, or eight marks. After some initial excitement, Berliners became bored with the toy money and stuck to

German cash by the end of the experimental week just over 500,000 euros were in circulation. Most, one suspects, will end up in the pockets of collectors.

How many more dress rehearsals will Germany need before it comes to accept the euro in place of the mark, token of prosperity and post-war stability?

In fact, Germany has already had one run-in with monetary union — the political merger of 22 German principalities and three free cities in 1871 was sealed by a common currency. Even then there was strong resistance — the minutes of the Bundesrat

debate in 1871 read like a blueprint for the present euro arguments. But unlike other attempts — the Latin currency union of 1865 and the Scandinavian union of 1872 — the unified German mark worked well (the coins were minted on French gold, paid as reparations by the loser of the Franco-Prussian War).

Bismarck's mark succeeded because political integration accompanied, or preceded, the monetary merger every step of the way. German politicians today draw a similar conclusion when they mutter darkly of Maastricht 3 and Maastricht 4 treaties, should Amsterdam produce

only meagre results on political integration.

Opinion polls record a stable sceptical constituency: between 55 per cent and 60 per cent of Germans declare against the euro. Will they ever come round? Zealots believe it is only a matter of time and propaganda: identifying the euro with success. Bert Vogt, the national football coach, is already doing his bit in advertising the new currency.

My impression is that the Government has overestimated its ability to swing popular opinion its way. Last week I attended a "Europe Week" event in the Hesse parlia-

ment. More than 300 editors of school newspapers peppered experts — a European Commission official, a Euro-deputy, the regional Minister for Europe — with unanswerable questions.

Why was the euro more important than jobs? How could monetary union prevent war on the Continent? Why wasn't Europe more democratic? Why was Turkey excluded from the European club? One boy had picked oranges in Greece for two weeks, then seen them thrown on a rubbish dump in the name of an absurd agri-

cultural policy. These youths will be first-time voters in the general election next year, and they will be hard-headed in their choices. A politician pleading for a delay in introducing the euro, and a youth job-creation scheme, would scoop up these votes.

The federal idealism of the Kohl generation has evaporated and the Chancellor has tailored his rhetoric. But he may have shifted too late. Increasingly, Germans insist on a pragmatic approach to the union: to young Germans, Herr Kohl's Europe seems to be looking backwards and federalists are visitors from a distant planet.

Voters direct their anger at politics of an arrogant elite

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WITH just a fortnight to go before French voters begin electing a new parliament, one institution has become a key focus for popular anger at the country's aloof, technocratic political elite.

The Ecole Nationale d'Administration — better known as ENA, the post-graduate training-ground which produces so many of the country's top politicians, business leaders and civil servants — is once again under attack as a scapegoat for France's ills and a powerful symbol of widespread disenchantment with the political process.

Since the election campaign began, numerous candidates have opened fire on ENA, its elitism and its *énarques*, its hugely influential products. In Paris alone, three politicians are standing for the Organisation Against the ENA System party (OCSENA).

One Gaullist MP fighting for re-election, Jean-Michel Fourgous, has called for the abolition of the grandest of France's *grandes écoles*, this "administrative club, intellectually competent but economically archaic, politically irresponsible and socially cut off from the people".

During his presidential campaign just over two years ago, Jacques Chirac thun-

dered against the ENA network, calling it "an omnipotent caste divorced from reality, more talented in flattery than decision-making".

But M Chirac, it should be noted, is the country's most prominent ENA graduate, while his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has come to represent the *énarque* par



FRENCH ELECTIONS

excellence — highly intelligent, academically impeccable but distant, uncompromising and arrogant. Two of the front-runners to replace him, the parliamentary Speaker, Philippe Séguin, and the former Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, are also members of the ENA club. Nor is inclusion confined to the Right. Lionel Jospin, the leader of the Socialist Party, is also a graduate.

along with the former Socialist Prime Ministers Laurent Fabius and Michel Rocard.

The cynicism rife in all parts of the French electorate is due, in part, to the perception that the election will make little impact on the influential old-boy network and that, in the words of OCSENA, "the senior administration has taken over French politics".

That view has been heightened by the low level of political debate, compounding the belief that a posse of professional politicians is running the election over the heads of the population, with scant regard for voters' genuine concerns and offering little to choose between them.

That impression was starkly reinforced by the exchange of "open letters" between the principal political players last week. First M Chirac offered his opinions in a newspaper article; then M Jospin replied in another; then M Juppé chipped in. For all the impact on the electorate, they might have been bureaucrats exchanging memos.

The principal issue of this election, the future of the single European currency, has been barely addressed so far. M Chirac called the snap election precisely to push ahead with deficit-reduction



Lionel Jospin, the French Socialist leader, pauses to taste cherries during a weekend campaign break in Paris.

and the EMU project, but campaigning on that platform is a sure vote-loser.

M Jospin, on the other hand, has raised questions about the single currency, but cannot risk openly opposing it.

As the economic commentator, Alain Minc, observed last week: "It is all very hypocritical here in France."

Faced with a line-up of

politicians whose policies and pedigrees are often all but indistinguishable and an election campaign enlivened only by sniping within the alliances on left and right, much of the electorate has taken refuge in boredom and apathy.

The latest poll, published yesterday by *Le Journal du Dimanche*, showed that the centre-right coalition had

pulled ahead again after a flurry of surveys suggesting that the Left might be on track for an upset victory. An IFOF poll predicted 41 per cent for the combined Right and 38 per cent for the left-wing alliance, translating into 328-353 seats for the Centre-Right and 193-227 for the Left.

But perhaps most significantly, nearly 30 per cent of

those polled had not made up their minds. "As soon as one of the great political families goes forward, it is stopped in its tracks," said columnist Alain Genestier in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. "The French people are expressing their lack of enthusiasm for a win by either camp."

William Reed-Mogg, page 20

19 die in Kashmir clashes

Srinagar: Gun battles between Muslim separatists and Indian troops and abductions in Kashmir left 19 people dead at the weekend, police reported last night. Six militants and an Indian soldier were killed in the main clash at Bahkukam village, 50 miles north of here, after troops surrounded the village to arrest separatist activists. The militants were reported to have opened fire using automatic rifles. (APF)

Volga hero dies

Moscow: The police chief of Kostroma town drowned after rescuing four people whose boat overturned in the Volga as Russians celebrated Victory Day, marking their triumph over the Nazis. (AP)

Big spenders

Bangkok: US troops on leave from joint exercises with the Thai military will spend the equivalent of £25 million in Pattaya, notorious for prostitution and crime, the Thai tourism authority says. (AP)

Ancient excuse

Santa Fe: Roger Katz, 50, a former teacher who allegedly had an affair with a 14-year-old student, told a New Mexico judge she had saved his life when he was a 7th-century Buddhist monk. (Reuters)

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Police fear wider network of Venice militants

Rome: Italian police issued a warning yesterday that the Venetian separatists who occupied the Campanile (bell tower) on St Mark's Square on Friday were not "isolated amateurs" but part of a wider network (Richard Owen writes).

Police said other members of a militant group seeking "independence" for Venice and the Veneto region had threatened to carry out further acts of terrorism. *La Repubblica*, which with

other Italian newspapers devoted six pages on Saturday to the attack and again yesterday, said in a front-page editorial that, although the assault on the Campanile by eight self-styled Venetian commandos smacked of buffoonery, it reflected a wider demand for local autonomy. "The Italian state must nip this threat in the bud by pushing through federalist reforms to give the regions greater powers," the paper said.

Yesterday voters went to the polls in 80 towns and provinces in a second round of local elections, with control of key northern towns such as Milan, Turin and Trieste at stake. Umberto Bossi, the leader of the separatist Northern League — which has denied having any links with the group of Venetian militants — urged his followers to boycott the voting and "go to the mountains" for the day instead.

Palermo court drama mars opera reopening

FROM FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AFTER last-minute restoration work, the wraps came off Palermo's partially renovated opera house today following a 23-year closure, with the Teatro Massimo echoing to the aria *Va Pensiero* from Verdi's *Nabucco* — the last work played there before it closed for repairs in January 1974. For Palermo the gala reopening is a symbol of hope and revival as the city emerges from the grip of the Mafia.

But right-wing Sicilian politicians from Forza Italia and the Alleanza Nazionale accused Leoluca Orlando, the popular anti-Mafia Mayor of Palermo, of staging the spectacle prematurely to distract attention from accusations that he mismanaged opera restoration funds as Mayor in the 1980s. Signor Orlando faces re-election in the autumn.

The Teatro Massimo will not be able to stage a full opera for at least another year and is confining itself to concerts. Today's opening concert is by the Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Claudio Abbado. Franco Zeffirelli, the film director and a senator for Sicily,

said Signor Orlando was staging a "fake, papier-mâché inauguration" for electoral purposes.

Trial proceedings against Signor Orlando are due to open next week. He said yesterday he had taken control of the opera restoration and appointed new builders after the last mayoral election in 1993 "precisely because funds were going missing". He had "full faith in the judges" and would be exonerated.

The neo-classical Teatro Massimo is the victim of neglect rather than fire. Built between 1875 and 1897 by the Sicilian architect, Ernesto Basile, with money provided by the fortunes of British wine merchants who founded the Marsala wine industry, it is the third largest opera house in Europe (after Vienna and Paris). It was closed because it lacked an emergency exit and contravened safety rules.

The fact that it has taken nearly a quarter of a century to reopen is seen as testimony to the bureaucracy and corruption which has plagued Sicily despite periodic attempts to clean up the system.

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Why the Hindenburg went up in flames

US scientists have taken another look at the zeppelin disaster. Anjana Ahuja reports

Sixty years ago this week, the streets of New York were packed with people, their eyes straining heavenwards to see the floating giant. That evening, the Hindenburg, its silver skin decorated with swastikas, was no more. Eyewitnesses said it took less than a minute for the zeppelin to ignite, explode and crash at Lakehurst in New Jersey.

The ensuing decades have not dampened speculation about the cause: was the disaster, which claimed the lives of 36 of the 97 people on board, caused by static electricity discharged from the outer cover; a bomb; or an incendiary bullet? But one important aspect — that the blaze took hold because the hydrogen used to keep the airship afloat was highly flammable — has not been questioned, until now.

In a timely piece of detective work, two scientists have stepped forward with a radically different scientific analysis of what happened. Addison Bain, the former head of NASA's hydrogen programme at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, and Richard Van Treuren, a space shuttle engineer, say the fabric of the airship and its waterproof lacquer coating were the key fire hazard. It would have been obvious to blame hydrogen, and more expedient — the Germans were forced to use the flammable hydrogen because, as diplomatic tensions escalated, America would not export nonflammable helium.

The story begins with Mr Bain, a NASA employee for 30 years. One of his tasks was to procure hydrogen gas for use in the space shuttle programme. "I was compiling a book on hydrogen safety and I was continually coming across reports of the Hindenburg disaster," he says. "But nearly every report had some kind of inconsistency."

His curiosity aroused, Mr Bain began to research the event more thoroughly. He found that the airship envelope, or cover, was made from cotton and linen. Doping materials were added to stiffen the fabric, make it waterproof and provide some protection from the sun.



Roaring firebomb: in the early evening of May 6, 1937, the Hindenburg exploded and crashed at Lakehurst in New Jersey

"The doping materials included a powdered aluminium, which is used in space shuttles, and a cellulose nitrate, which is used to make explosives," he says. "The other things that caught my eye were photographs and footage of the event and the reports. Witnesses reported seeing yellow, red and orange flames. Hydrogen burns with orange colour. Also, the pieces of fabric did not self-extinguish. They carried on burning."

Mr Bain, who had by this time retired, contacted his former colleagues at the Kennedy Space Centre, including Mr Van Treuren, who is also an airship enthusiast. Friends at the centre's material science laboratory agreed to test the theory that it was the zeppelin's doped fabric, rather than the hydrogen gas, that proved lethal. But first, the men had to track down fragments of the Hindenburg cover. Some aficionados refused to part with

their scraps of history; others donated tiny portions. Mr Bain also paid for samples.

Scientists at Kennedy then conducted tests for ignition and inflammability. In the first test, they applied an arc of electricity to the fabric. If the arc hit the fabric perpendicularly, it burnt a harmless hole. If the arc hit the fabric in a parallel way, with electrical charge shooting along the cloth, the fragment ignited.

This confirmed Mr Bain's theory that the doped outer covering of the Hindenburg was, in effect, a thin layer of explosive rocket fuel. He thinks the conditions in the early evening of May 6, 1937, would have been fatally ideal — a passing thunderstorm, he says, had left the atmosphere highly electrified.

As part of his research, Mr Bain travelled to Friedrichshafen, Germany, where Count Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin built his airships, including the Hindenburg. There, he discovered designs for the Hindenburg's successor, the LZ-130. "Among the changes were plans to reduce the inflammability of the cover and improve the conductivity of the airship envelope," he says. "The changes suggest that the manufacturers knew the real cause of the fire."

Mr Bain and Mr Van Treuren are publishing their findings in *Buoyant Flight*, a US magazine. They cite other factors that add weight to their argument: archival accounts of US Navy airships filled with helium which burnt as furiously, and records of hydrogen-filled airships coming under fire and failing to burn. "Their theory has, for the most part, been well-received. 'A lot of people feel as if they've had their eyes opened,'" says Eric Brothers, the editor of *Buoyant Flight*. "These guys have really looked into the science of how hydrogen burns, using technology that wasn't around 60 years ago."

Some sceptics, however, point out that the fabric may have changed substantially. Mr Bain disputes this: "The fragments are remarkably well-preserved. In so many cases we have seen the frailty of human engineering. The sulphur in the steel hull of the *Titanic* caused it to shatter. In the Challenger disaster, the O-ring became inelastic at cold temperatures. Sometimes, we cannot compete with Mother Nature."

Take cover ☐ Helpful bacteria ☐ Seeing rocks

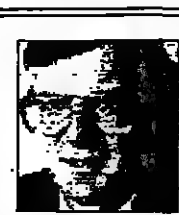
Creating a splash

TRADITIONALLY, the world's fastest computers have been used to forecast the weather and to simulate the explosion of nuclear weapons. The move away from nuclear testing puts a greater premium on this latter capability, and a supercomputer recently installed at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will increasingly take on the role of proving that the weapons in the American stockpile still work.

But before they started, Gil Weigand, the official responsible for strategic computing at the US Department of Energy, asked Sandia to carry out a simulation of more general interest. Dr David Crawford responded by using the computer to simulate an event of incomparably greater power than even a nuclear weapon — the impact of a one-kilometre comet on the Earth. That is about the size of the largest fragment of the comet Shoemaker-Levy which struck Jupiter in 1994.

Dr Crawford and his colleague, Dr Mark Boslough, used 1,500 processors of the Intel supercomputer, which is capable of one trillion operations per second. The problem was split into 54 million separate "zones" of operation and ran for a full 48 hours. They used the same program as they had used to simulate the Jupiter impact — on that occasion, the prediction that a visible plume would rise above the rim of Jupiter was borne out by experience.

They assumed a one-kilometre comet, which would weigh about a billion tons, travelling at 60 kilometres per second and



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

hitting the atmosphere at an angle of 45 degrees before landing in one of the world's oceans. This is not a large comet — Hale-Bopp is about 40 kilometres across and weighs about ten trillion tons.

The simulation starts with the comet about 30 kilometres above the surface, producing a luminous bow shock as it penetrates the atmosphere. It hits the ocean less than a second later, generating an impact energy of 300 billion tons of TNT — ten times the power of all the nuclear weapons in existence at the height of the Cold War. The explosion creates a deep hole in the ocean, and vaporising the comet instantaneously, along with 300 to 500 cubic kilometres of water, which rises as a huge steam explosion. Debris is hurled into ballistic trajectories that carry it around the Earth.

Low-lying areas of land would be swamped by huge waves, but a comet this size is too small to cause a global catastrophe. If it were only slightly larger, says Dr Crawford, the debris would be sufficient to block out sunlight and disrupt agriculture. "Simulations of this kind can help to pin down the energy threshold and help to answer the question: Is it a regional or a global catastrophe?"

Fortunately, the chances of such an event are reckoned to be small, about once every 300,000 years. That's a long time in human history, although not so long when measured against the Earth's 4.5 billion-year lifetime. Dr Boslough says: "It's a low probability, high-consequence event."

How brittle stars grow new limbs



THE brittle star, a longer-armed version of the starfish, loses limbs with regularity but manages to grow new ones without the wounds becoming infected. Last week Dr Bill Dobson, a marine biologist from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, told a Miami conference how the creature does it.

He says symbiotic bacteria living on the brittle star produce compounds that kill many pathogens. With Eileen Stahl, a graduate student, Dr Dobson has shown that at least ten species of bacteria live in the brittle star, and that within an hour or two of an injury the wound is completely covered with them.

When tested in petri dishes against common pathogens, many of the bacterial species were able to prevent the growth of the organisms responsible for pneumonia, salmonella and diphtheria. Dr Dobson hopes further study will reveal what the bacteria are, and which compounds they produce, with the aim of creating a new range of antibiotic drugs.

US satellite detects early settler quarries



USING satellite images, a team of American scientists has pinpointed eight quarries worked by the first settlers of North America up to 10,000 years ago. The quarries, a source of a quartz-like material called chert used for making tools, all lie in Horse Prairie Valley, an 800 square mile area of southwest Montana.

The team, from the University of Colorado and led by anthropologist Thomas Carr, first studied a known quarry. From this data they developed spectral "signatures" of 12 geological and vegetation patterns characteristic of the quarry. Different frequencies of radiation detected by satellites provide information about the type of rocks, and the type of plants, in any small area. A chert quarry, for example, would be expected to show the kind of bedrock that carries chert, next to an area of disturbed soil.

A computer searched images taken by the Landsat satellite for the characteristics eight sites turned out to be quarries. Mr Carr believes the technique has great potential for uncovering other ancient quarries.

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‘There have been times when I’ve felt the pressure of who my father is’

Jason Connery hopes that his latest film role, as Macbeth, will finally free him from comparisons with 007. Interview by Giles Whittell

There is a story from Jason Connery's reckless youth that, to his credit, he does not mind retelling. Twelve years or so ago he was racing his motorbike in Sussex when, in the process of crashing, he banged his left testicle against his petrol tank.

He fractured a thumb and some ribs but it was his *undercarriage* that alarmed the paramedics. Bleeding internally, his scrotum swelled to the size of a grapefruit. He was rushed to hospital in Brighton and undressed by a female nurse who promptly called in two more.

When the specialist arrived she announced an incision would have to be made to let the blood drain out, but not

before summoning ten medical students to behold the rare sight of acute testicular haemorrhage.

"You don't mind, do you, Mr Connelly?" he remembers being told. He was on national television every week at the time as *Robin of Sherwood*: a familiar face, not to mention a famous name.

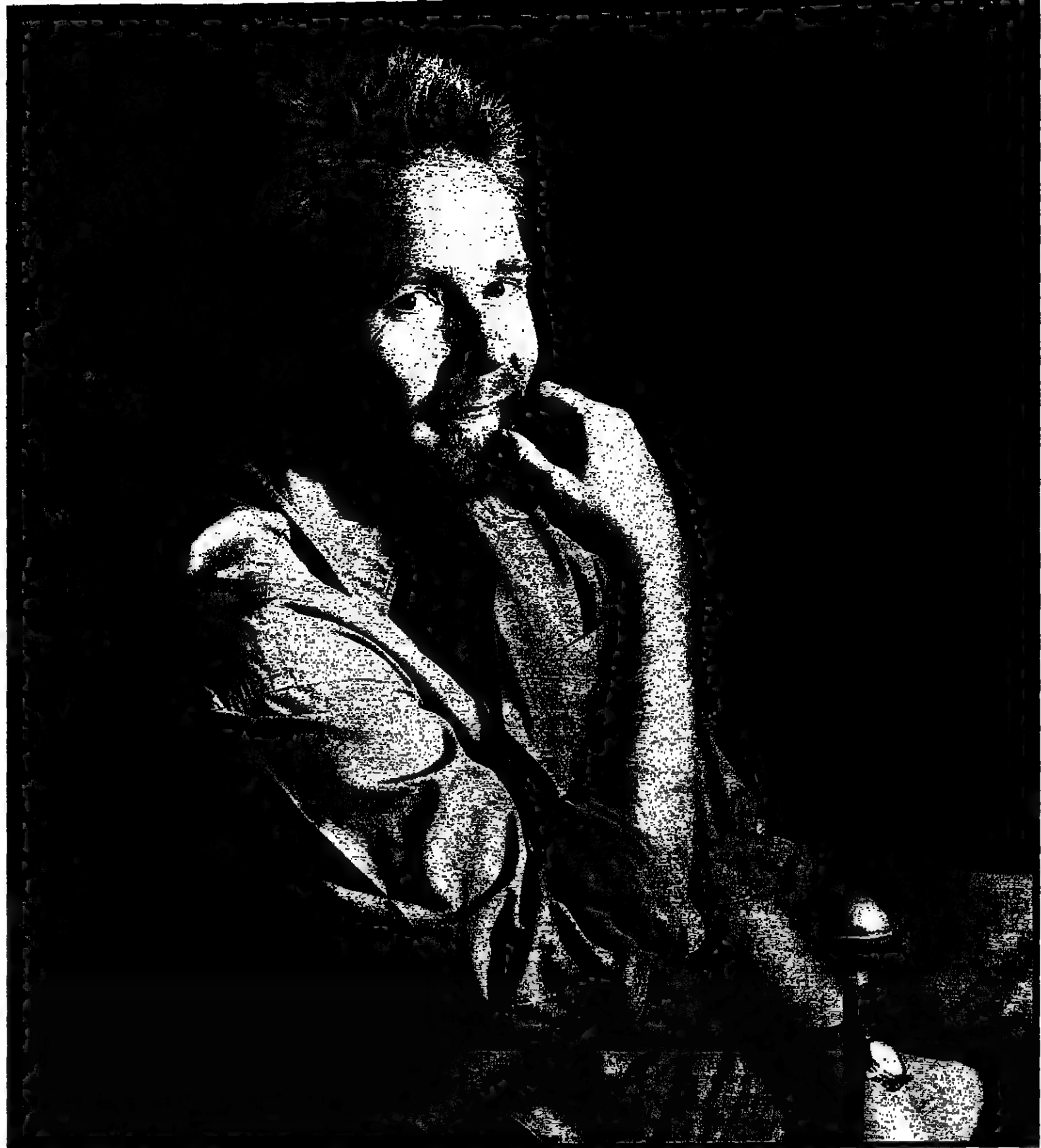
"No," he groaned. As it turned out, the incision was never made and the testicle gradually healed of its own accord. But Connery lost a job in a film produced by Michael Douglas because of it. When Connery withdrew, Douglas telephoned to ask why. Connery never told him.

This son of Sean is stoic and very private, even if his privacy has to come before his

career. Such are his priorities as he arrives in London this week from Los Angeles for his first major British premiere, as the lead in a new film version of *Macbeth*. It is, he hopes, the role that will finally establish him as a major actor in his own right, independent and in demand beyond his father's lowering shadow.

As on the motorbike track, so in film: Connery Jr does not want for courage. He has taken on one of the great tragic roles in the language despite a curriculum vitae that boasts only one professional Shakespeare part before it: he once played Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew* at Southampton. Otherwise, he has not touched the Bard since school.

~I did feel I was being



Jason Connery is intent on disguising his absurdly good looks. The *Macbeth* hair has been replaced by a hedgehog cut and a Hollywood goatee.

thrown in the deep end," he says. "But I was the one who threw myself there." He did not audition for the part, exactly. It was more a case of agreeing to team up again with his old mate Bob Carruthers of Cronwell Films:

which finances ultra-low budget films by selling 500 or so shares at \$500 per investor.

The innovative Carruthers system ensures that even if shareholders don't recoup their money they get invitations to the premiere and the chance of being an extra. The challenge for the director and his principals is to harness this amateur enthusiasm in the name of a professional film.

Connelly prepared diligently. For one thing, he grew a full beard and very long hair. Hirsute was hip in 19th-century Scotland, but it also conveniently distinguishes the current Connelly from the close-cropped, boy-next-door guise in which he played Robin Hood. (Reclining for the *Times* photographer beneath Whoopi Goldberg's cigar cabinet in a private humidor in Beverly Hills, he still seems intent on disguising his absurdly good looks. The *Macbeth* hairstyle has been replaced by a hedgehog cut and the unaccountably fashionable Hollywood coatee.)

Hair apart, how does one recreate a character already brought to the big screen by Orson Welles, Peter O'Toole, Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Anthony Hopkins? If Connery was ever daunted by the inevitable comparisons, he is not admitting it. Nor does he have much time for the pretensions of "method" acting so beloved of the more self-important American stars.

"A lot of actors work from the outside in, and a lot work from the inside out," he says. "I felt I was doing an amalgamation of both. You're standing there in costume. You've got the sword, you've got the beard, you feel like a warrior and there's a huge brooding castle in the background. It's uncomfortable. The chairs are all wood, the beds are horsehair. The mistake then is to ask yourself, 'How would this guy think? What would this say be.' If I'm going to make this real I have to put some aspect of myself in it, and make it true for me."

Whether this *Macbeth* will prove true for a mass audience is another matter. Like his father, Connery has a knack for filmy close-ups. He is also a match for Branagh when it comes to making Shakespeare's calmer passages work as both dialogue and poetry. But one result of the film's being shot entirely on location in Scotland is that its backdrops sometimes look like tourist-board stock footage. Overall, it's more endearing than terrifying, and may not be the accolade one hopes for the first true British thriller.

If Connery hopes *Macbeth* will prove his ticket to full-blown stardom, he is biding

his time with it. No one in Hollywood has been shown an early cut, and he doesn't know yet what his next acting job will be. Such a hiatus would be unthinkable for an aspiring Hanks or Hoffman, but Connery seems unbothered by it.

Asked about his ambition, he replies in unintended but surely — revealing oxymoron:

"I think I'm totally committed," he says. "I love acting, but I do feel there are other things, such as my relationship with my wife and child and to an extent my friends, that are more important."

Technically he does not have a child yet, but his wife the actress Mia Sara, is eight months pregnant. They met three years ago on the St. Petersburg set of *Bullet to Beijing*, where their co-star Michael Caine acted as unwitting matchmaker by offering them both respite from the bitter Russian cold in his imported Winnebago.

Connery hit it off with Caine as his father had decades earlier. When he and Sara

were married last year, it was in the Candlelight Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, recommended by Caine from fond experience. When they returned to London, their first stop was a party thrown for them by Caine at Langan's.

Sean Connery did not attend the wedding. The gleeful tabloids called it a snub. Jason Connery insists it was his idea: "We didn't tell Dad and we didn't tell Mum [actress Diane Cilento, divorced 24 years ago] because basically they can't stand each other," he says humbly.

Secretive as the wedding was, a year later Connery is taking it most seriously. The only future role he is certain of, he says, is "being a husband and a father." It is not far-fetched to suppose that this earnest-sounding 34-year-old has formed his views on fatherhood from his experience of childhood, which included attending a series of expensive boarding schools (Millfield, Gordonstoun) as his own father bestrode the world and topped most sex-

symbol rankings. Still, he insists that most of what has been written about his allegedly tricky relationship with the original 007 is myth.

"There have been times when I've felt the pressure of what my father is," he says, remembering his early days at Perth. Rep when the local paper would send a photographer round if he so much as released. "You're under scrutiny much earlier. When you walk in the door people think, 'I wonder if he's going to look like his dad, or sound like him or have a complex about him'."

"But on the whole I feel as though it's not my problem. In fact it *isn't* a problem. I am Sean Connery's son."

They will not be together at the premiere. Sean will be in New York accepting an award and Jason is ready for the next round of "Father Snubs Son" hysteria. As it subsides, they will meet up, as they often do, for 18 quiet holes at Sunningdale or the Sherwood course in California.

●Macbeth goes on release from today and nationwide in June

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his principals is to harness this naturally — revealing oxymoron: "I love acting, but there are other things in life."

Technically he does not have a child yet, but his wife, the actress Mia Sara, is eight months pregnant. They met three years ago on the St. Petersburg set of *Bullet to Beijing*, where their co-star Michael Caine acted as unwitting matchmaker by offering them both respite from the bitter Russian cold in his imported Winnebago.

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"If I wanted it I could create it, that whole maelstrom of publicity," says junior. "But you have a choice. I think I learnt that from my father."

● *Macbeth goes on release from today and nationwide in June*

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She is a fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and has been

So do women like Angela have doubts? The message of the book is that they do —

women wanted to break out of the groove. The fourth group, the "protestors", felt that they had been thrown into premar-

written the book on working mothers, then turned it into a Ph.D. At Berkeley, she taught and began research into ado-

● Secret Paths will be published by W. W. Norton on Thursday, price £9.95

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Just before she was 21, halfway through her second degree, she met her husband. David Newbury was then a young don, and he was keen to marry. After was not: "I was really resisting traditional roles. I thought I was extremely independent and I really thought I'd won the women's revolution.

Instead, they moved into a house in Cambridge, marrying five years later in 1975. Ostensibly, After was pursuing her own goals, working at her novels. But in her 40s she was to look back and wonder how she could not have no-

Partly at her husband's urging, however, she did gain a fellowship at Clare Hall in 1990. The routes out of her crisis have not been U-turns, but gentle curves in the road.

But Apter is not entirely an advertisement for her thesis of the bigger and better post-crisis woman: "I still feel there are some regrets that are quite raw and not fully thought out. There's still this fantasy that things might have been different."

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



MUSICAL

The £10 million Disney musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, comes to the Dominion
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



CONCERT

Have viola, will dazzle: Yuri Bashmet displays his world-class virtuosity at the Barbican
RECITAL: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

At the National Theatre, *Amadeus* fills stars in a new production of *Marat/Sade*
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



POP

Supergrass try out their new sound on the Britton Academy crowd
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

What, given the will, the imagination and a bit of luck, could the Labour Party achieve for the arts in the next five years? A lot is expected because of Labour's track record. The Arts Council weeviled its way into the establishment during the Atlee years; and, with Harold Wilson's blessing, Jennie Lee jumped it into a national prominence which subsequent governments and ministers have built on but not — until the lottery — been able to transform to any similar degree. The time is surely right for a third major leap forward and Chris Smith seems the man to lead the charge.

There are at least three key areas in which the arts could change radically. First, and by far the most important, is the task of getting the message, the skills and the opportunities into schools. I'm aware that this has been said many times before — I have said it often myself. But not often enough for it to have had any real effect. It is time that we stopped being

Radical recipe for a new British culture

pious and paying no more than lip service to this fundamental idea and addressed it vigorously for what it is — the surest method of putting down a foundation for active future participants and knowledgeable future audiences in an area of our national life bound to grow. Whatever this Government does or does not do, broadcasting and culture in its widest sense including tourism, will increase in importance and wealth. It is now undeniable that the arts are not only good for trade but they are trade.

Every school should have access to instruments which would allow it to form an orchestra, classical or jazz. School libraries should be well resourced and tied in with town and city libraries. Theatre, opera, dance and classical music groups should tour intensively and continuously. Access to live perfor-

mances ought to be part of the curriculum. Writers, singers, painters, sculptors and architects must be encouraged in short-term residencies. Directors of film, television and video should be brought in for summer schools. A sort of nationwide arts apprenticeship scheme and one which draws in children from all backgrounds should and could be established.

This is not idealistic. It is completely realistic. If we are to make use of our world language and the advantage we have in many of the cultural areas already, then we simply have to attend property and thoroughly to the roots of the matter. Many people of my generation and older still cannot help thinking of the arts as a luxury, a frippery or an extra. How many times do we have to repeat that more people work in the arts than work in the steel, coal



and car industries combined? How many times do we have to say that the culture/tourist industries bring in £16 billion a year and rising? We have lost many old heavy industries. There is every-

thing to be said for developing a new heavy cultural industry which will be increasingly important and on a global scale.

Hollywood is a clear example here. Its intensive development and cultivation of film and television has made it the second biggest industry in the USA and yet what is it? Just a bunch of pictures, movies, still often regarded as nothing more than an amusement arcade of the lowest common denominator. But Hollywood saw an opportunity and seized it.

Secondly, we have to make the final break which leaves London a world city but gives real independence and clout to the other great cities in Britain. Glasgow has shown the way and even though it is now struggling, the institutions, the artists and the work in that city show what can be done. There are

similar stirrings elsewhere but a strategy of decentralisation and a willingness to charge local councils to release already available funds could push what is almost an experiment into a reality. Culture could be one of the great engines of growth in these cities.

None of this needs massive extra funding. Any extra funding it does need should come from the lottery. This is my third point. The lottery must be made to serve the arts and not, as at present, the arts serving the questionable and highly partial lottery. It must rapidly become much more flexible before the powers that be grow so irritated with its failure to fire properly that more money is moved out to health and other causes which would garner much more popular applause. The lottery has to shift

itself away from its rigid regulations and not only hold onto but build up its stake for the arts. In this area, a comparatively modest investment can have the most tremendous leverage.

This is not cloud-cuckoo-land. If anyone 50 years ago had prophesied the popularity enjoyed by today's museums and galleries, he would have been ignored or mocked. If in 50 years time we are major players on the world stage then it will only be because of decisions taken now in an area of life — culture — once thought marginal but increasingly more central to the business of people's daily lives. After all, more than 600,000 people work in the arts directly.

These are just three preliminary points. There is much more. There are great expectations for a Labour government, the talent already in place and so widely available, and the enthusiasm and intelligence of a new arts team, then there is indeed everything to hope for.

LONDON THEATRE: A major Chekhov play revisited at the Old Vic; a minor Chekhov adapted on the fringe

The pain of laughter

The Seagull
Old Vic

Russians enjoy reminding the English, who still sometimes think of him as a fastidious miniaturist specialising in autumnal pastels, that Chekhov is a very funny dramatist. In *The Seagull* almost every character is forlornly beset with someone who cannot reciprocate: yet the man himself described it as "a comedy with much talk about literature and five tons of love". Given those words and his own status as a comic playwright, you might expect Tom Stoppard's translation to give Chekhov a larger tickling stick than usual.

But Stoppard knows that Russian, and especially Chekhovian, comedy embraces depth and even despair. So does Peter Hall, his director. So does every member of the cast except Janine Duvitski, who plays Masha's famous opening line, "I'm in mourning for my life", as a petty boast, and generally comes across as too goofy and trivial to take seriously. But overall this is a *Seagull* beautifully balanced between laughter and pain.

Stoppard's text has witty moments — "having no backbone he could bend both ways" neatly mocks Trigorin's propensity for sexual sharing

— but it rejects cleverness for clarity, momentum and subtlety of thought and feeling. This gives Hall's cast the chance to bring texture to their roles: a challenge they accept, starting with Dominic West's Kostia, fumbling writer and lover, and Victoria Hamilton's Nina, a parallel failure in the emotional and artistic stakes.

West is a big, gangling figure whose wounded-dog looks hide blundering rage, confused ambition and an intense sickness of heart. At first he contrasts strongly with Hamilton's Nina, who hurls herself into the role of the artless fame-freak, falling on her back in excitement at the prospect of meeting the novelist Trigorin. But shallowness vanishes when she reappears in the fourth-act rain. You don't doubt that her blenched, exhausted Nina, with her mewing, seagull-like sobs and blank, past-caring shrugs, has traversed the emotional chasms.

Michael Pennington brings out the gulf between the superman of Nina's imagination and the real Trigorin,

presenting us with a bashful, insecure creature who patronises Andrew Aguecheek's barber and gets his droopy body-language from a similarly nerdy source. His is a brave, interesting performance, but it leaves you asking why he excites such sexual rapacity in Felicity Kendal's Arkadina, especially as he also looks older than he should and she makes no great effort to suggest the actress's terror of ageing.

Nevertheless, Kendal has superb moments, notably when a tiny argument about horses suddenly escalates into walls and screams of dismay and you see the raw nerves under the blithe surface. But then Hall's production often shows you what people are feeling and failing to say; and not only where the major characters are concerned. Observe the minuscule flash of jealousy that crosses the face of Anna Carteret's Polina when Arkadina pays an off-hand compliment to David Yelland's Dorn, the beloved doctor who has raised studied indifference to an art form. That's truthful. That's Chekhovian. That sums up the evening's quality.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Felicity Kendal (Arkadina) and Michael Pennington (Trigorin) in Peter Hall's staging

Phoenix rising from the ashes

Hallé/Nagano
Manchester

IN THE five seasons Kent Nagano has now completed with the Hallé Orchestra, comment has tended to focus on his interpretative rather than his technical achievement. In converting the Hallé to something closer to his own ideal, Nagano had to reassemble it, and, temporarily at least, lost something vital in the process.

If the Hallé has not recovered the more extrovert aspects of its character it is certainly more at ease both with itself and its principal conductor. Their performance of Mahler's *Symphony* offered abundant evidence of an orchestra with finer tuning, a more accessible and more discriminating range of colour, a clearer texture, and more discipline in general.

The most impressive aspect of the interpretation was the effect made by the one choral, on the last-but-one syllable of the choral part, which marks the climax of the work. The fact that the greatest emotional effort was reserved for this precise moment is not in itself remarkable. But that it should so naturally take its place as

the culmination of all that has gone before it was proof of a brilliantly executed strategy.

One of the more important issues in the second subject of the first movement, the *Adagio* theme, which at one point was preceded by a section so long that it seemed the performance might not start again. But in general it was not an interpretation to take risks. It was presumably part of the economy that the orchestra lifted the interpretation on to another level. Certainly, that is what was achieved by Chorus Heilstein's firmly intoned *Urlicht*. After some well-managed offstage last-minute effects and an atmospheric *Adagio* coda in the last movement, the eerie entry of the Hallé Choir lifted it yet again.

GERALD LARNER

Grand horizontal

ROSA MANNION'S performance in the title role was the main reason for going to Jonathan Miller's production of *La traviata* when it opened the ENO season last September. On revival, almost totally recast and musically a good deal more assured, than six months ago, *Violetta* remains the spur.

She is now the American soprano Susan Patterson, making her London debut. The two *Violettas* could not be more different. In Act 1 Mannon was already a victim, fragile and in need of support. Patterson is almost distant, a Henry James heroine keeping her head above decadent European driftwood. Her handling of the act's closing scene was technically unblemished, but chilly.

That could well have been part of the game plan. Patterson only began to suppose *Violetta's* frailty when Giorgio Germont arrived to confront her. From there the downward slide began. She started to colour Verdi's vocal line so that the first traces of despair emerged and built towards a deeply felt final act. Throughout the latter Miller kept her in bed and Patterson is well up to the physical demands of singing prostrate, floating out into the theatre the

La traviata
Coliseum

notes that announce to everyone but herself that she is about to die.

Julian Gavin, the new Alfredo, threw himself with passion into this last encounter. Earlier he had successfully portrayed the pacific boy not quite sure what has hit him. Christopher Booth-Jones was a scathing, lightweight Germont père. Sharper performance came from Claire Henry (Flora), Richard Van Allen (the Baron) and Anthony Mose (the Viscount).

JOHN HIGGINS

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The Duel
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

I WOULD have happily traded in the bottle of Russian vodka sent to me by News From Verona Theatre Company if Roger Ringrose and Tim Marchant's adaptation of Chekhov's "short" story had stopped after one, rather than three, hours.

On a wooden seaside promenade framed by a nest square of pebble beach, there is a lazy clash of personalities between Ivan Layevsky, a dissolute young government official, and Von Koren, an affluent, hard-nosed zoologist. Their differences are lazily mapped over long lunches and picnics in a claustrophobic resort on the Black Sea. We run into clouds of ennui, beamed scenes and fraught-sounding conversations that add up to a lot less than Marchant's direction might imply.

On Layevsky's side there is Samolyenko (played with bluff appeal by Jean-Benoit Blanc),

a big-hearted army doctor who lets his alcoholic friend abuse his bar tab. There is also Laura Jones's shallow Nadyezhda, a married woman infatuated with Layevsky, but sitting on several other local indiscretions. "Crippled by civilisation" and the stifling attentions of Nadyezhda and his overbearing mother (Victoria Plum), Layevsky dreams of escaping to St Petersburg.

It is a familiar romantic theme in Chekhov. It is unfortunate, therefore, that Paul McEwan's romantic hero has the sexual charisma of a plucked chicken. There isn't a moment when you wouldn't like to take him outside and shoot him yourself.

Roger Ringrose plays Von Koren, the zoologist, like a severe prep school house-master. His most interesting contribution is a discussion with Tony Sloman's irritatingly happy Deacon. Here Von Koren argues for natural selection over Christian virtues. Don't let humanity get in the way, especially when it comes to sex like Layevsky. Sure enough, by the time we get to the duel, our theatrical charity has long since departed.

The production ends up in a flurry of needless scene changes designed to give the illusion of expediency. The moral code, delivered by a chastened and changed Layevsky, that life proceeds by going two steps forward and one step back, could have fallen out of a Chinese fortune cookie.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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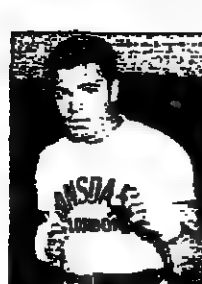
COMEDY

Sharp, acerbic and deadpan, Jack Dee opens a new show at the Gielgud Theatre
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



DANCE

Siobhan Davies, 25 years in the choreography trade, stages new work at the Brighton Festival
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILM

Knockout stuff: the story of Muhammad Ali is recounted in *When We Were Kings*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

David Putnam's trenchant views on Hollywood are revealed in *The Undeclared War*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Nice and easy does it

AMERICAN reviewers had a pleasant shock when Ian Shaw made his debut tour of that country this year. His occasional vocal partner Claire Martin had already proved that the United States has no monopoly on sophisticated female singers, and then along came Shaw, cool and graceful and determined to take on the mantle of Mel Tormé and Mark Murphy.

After a lengthy period of dues-paying on the London circuit, Shaw has reached a new level of maturity in the past year. After a series of albums which perhaps tried too hard to cover as much jazz-pop territory as possible, he has delivered his most focused work in *The Echo of a Song*, a collection of vintage numbers assembled at the suggestion of the late Ronnie Scott.

Ian Shaw
Ronnie Scott's

Some people, unfortunately, would not know the difference between a quality performer and a karaoke machine. For a large part of his set at Scott's club — where he appeared on the same bill as the pianist Monty Alexander — Shaw had to contend with the chatter of a part of the audience more interested in a night out than in listening to the music.

By the end, though, he seemed to have won over many of them. While he may have risked being upstaged by Alexander's showmanship — the pianist hummering out a grandstanding arrangement from Rodriguez's *Concierto de Aranjuez* — his quartet worked its magic on a more intimate scale.

Large stretches of *Concierto* on *You, explored*, in a brisk setting by pianist Simon Wallace, bore little resemblance to Cole Porter's original theme, but Shaw's improvisations had their own symmetry. Where he once used to be tempted into one pyrotechnic leap too many, he now brings greater discipline and genuine drama to his art.

Throughout, Duncan Mackay's trumpet solos formed a pungent counterweight to the sure-footed rhythm work of drummer Dave Ohm and bassist Mick Hutton.

CLIVE DAVIS



The Fifth Element, chosen to open Cannes: "Luc Besson has done little to lift this adventure — the most expensive French film ever — beyond the achievements of the *Star Wars* trilogy or *Indiana Jones*"

An anniversary to remember

CINEMA: From futuristic fantasy in New York to harrowing real life in Sarajevo, the opening films in the 50th edition of the Cannes Festival are reviewed by Geoff Brown

In an article written in 1958, *The Sunday Times* film critic Dilys Powell recalled how she had once imagined a Mediterranean film festival to be a glittering intellectual and social feast: "something between Plato's Academy and Versailles under 'le roi soleil'". She soon learnt.

Yet if any festival tries to live the high life, it is Cannes. This year is its 50th edition, if one excepts the abortive one-night stand on September 1, 1939, when Hitler's invasion of Poland stole the thunder and reduced the festival to a single screening of *Charles Laughton's Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. It took until 1946 for business to be resumed, year upon year (except for 1948 and 1950, when money problems intervened).

Much has changed since then. A small festival for the elite has become a bulging festival for the media army. The salesmen have descended, bringing with them *Suicide and Prejudice*. *Topless Women Talk about their Lives*, and other delights of the film market (first established in 1959). Yet still the great, good and not so good walk up the red carpet every night.

sexed and designer dresses shining, to watch films competing for the prize of prizes, the Palme d'Or. Characters in the films themselves are usually not so elegant. Bruce Willis spent much of the opening film, *Luc Besson's The Fifth Element*, acting tough in an orange singlet. Not just any singlet: like all garments in this derivative futuristic twaddle, filmed at Pine-wood with piles of French money, the item was designed by Jean-Paul Gaultier. Besson had apparently been nurturing the material since his teenage days in the mid 1970s; but apart from an injection of 1990s camp, the adult Besson has done little to lift this adventure — the most expensive French film ever — beyond the achievements of the *Star Wars* trilogy or *Indiana Jones*.

Willis plays a New York cabbie in the year 2259, when the world faces annihilation from a malevolent planet and a hillbilly thug with half a head of hair (Gary Oldman). The only salvation lies with a group of

Egyptian stone totems representing the four elements. No salvation lies ahead for the film, though. Milla Jovovich's cover-girl assignments should increase after playing a carbon-fiber beauty cooked up in a lab and dressed in nothing but thermal bandages.

How do you properly celebrate the 50th birthday of the queen of all film festivals? It is comparatively easy to arrange the cake's icing: the fireworks, the dance spectacle, the parade of past prizewinners, the grand celebratory dinner. Yet even here problems arose. Ingmar Bergman, chosen to receive a 50th birthday accolade, the Palme of Palmes d'Or, preferred to stay put on his Swedish island. Other luminaries, Clint Eastwood for one, have been unable to add lustre to the overcrowded resort, though the Spice Girls and 21 young British actors and actresses have done their bit for Britain, parading their wares and posing for photographers.

The biggest problem is the quality

of the cake, the films themselves. In making his competition selection, Gilles Jacob, Cannes' supreme chief since 1978, suffered political as well as artistic headaches. At first Iran refused to export Abbas Kiarostami's *The Taste of Cherry*, banned at home because of its taboo subject, suicide, though there has since been a change of heart. There is no sign of any shift in China's objection to Zhang Yimou's *Keep Cool*. This hotly anticipated entry was withdrawn by its producer following animosity towards the non-competing *East Palace*. *West Palace*, a compelling drama of gay desire, fear and loathing in Beijing by the adventurous Zhang Yuan, which was post-produced in France, beyond China's grasp.

The motley jury, which embraces president Isabelle Adjani, Mike Leigh, Gong Li, and the director of *Mars Attacks*, Tim Burton, still have plenty of films on their hands.

face family demons in this public fashion.

By comparison Michael Winterbottom's *Welcome to Sarajevo* packs a gentler punch, though there is enough human misery image by image to make the gods weep. This is a version of *Nostalgia's Story*, the book by ITN's political correspondent Michael Nicholson about the orphanage child he smuggled out from Bosnia. Some images come from archive footage; others recreate with chilling clarity civilians falling to sniper fire, and journalists coping with carnage.

So what modifies the film's impact? Parity casting: partly Frank Cottrell Boyle's script; partly Winterbottom's tendency not to look beyond the surface. Nothing is wrong with Stephen Dillane's reporter (called Michael Henderson); but Woody Harrison and Marisa Tomei are unhelpful in a film that yearns to do without Hollywood gloss. Boyle's script gives lesser characters perfunctory treatment, and indulges in heavy irony. Still, the film avoids the excess sentimentality of another Sarajevo drama in town, Ademir Kenovic's *The Perfect Circle*.

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The Tories who stayed at home

Garret FitzGerald says Labour won surprisingly few converts

To what extent does Labour's massive parliamentary majority reflect a major swing from Tories to Labour, and to what extent it is the outcome of Tories registering protest votes for groups such as the Referendum Party or else staying at home out of unhappiness with the parliamentary party?

The total voting figures reveal a low turnout, and show that the increase in the Labour vote in no case came near to matching the decline in the votes cast for the Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates. The first surprise is that although both the total population and the adult population of the UK have risen by about one million since 1992, the electorate today is fractionally smaller than five years ago. Whatever the reason for this anomaly, the fact that there has been very little change in the electorate makes direct comparisons between the 1992 and 1997 elections quite simple.

The total of votes cast on May 1 was down by two million, a drop of 6 per cent in the turnout. How was this accounted for? Broadly speaking, 4,500,000 people who voted Conservative in 1992 failed to do so on this occasion, a drop of almost one third. Moreover, one eighth of the 1992 Liberal Democrat voters, 750,000 of them, also abandoned their former allegiance.

What did these five and a quarter million people do with their votes? Well, 800,000, mainly in England, switched to the Referendum Party — and one can be certain that almost all of this batch of switchers were Tories rather than Liberal Democrats. Moreover, votes for other parties and Independents nearly doubled, increasing by 400,000, and at least half of these must have been Tory switchers. Finally, the Labour vote rose by 2,000,000.

How much of this 2,000,000 Labour gain came from the Tories? Clearly, some of it came from Liberal Democrats. Unlike the Tories, the Liberal Democrats had little reason to abstain, so the bulk of the drop of more than 650,000 in that party's vote must have gone elsewhere — and not many Liberal Democrat voters will have plumped for the Referendum Party or similar splinter groups. It seems safe to assume, therefore, that at least 500,000 of these voters switched to Labour, either for tactical reasons, or because they like Tony Blair's new Labour.

So less than 1,500,000 of Labour's gain can have come from former Tory voters. And, allowing for the 1,000,000 Tory voters who switched to the Referendum Party or to other small parties or Independents, the residue of the 4,500,000 drop in the Tory vote was therefore

accounted for by abstentions. In other words, the whole of the two million fall in the total poll was accounted for simply by Tories staying at home.

With barely one Conservative voter in every ten switching to Labour, it is hard to see how the result of this election can reasonably be described as a landslide, in any normal sense of that term. What made it seem like a landslide, of course, was the first-past-the-post voting system — as a result of which an overall increase of one sixth in the Labour vote, combined with Tory abstentions, increased Labour's parliamentary representation by as much as a half.

The disproportion between the scale of this Labour gain in seats and the much greater magnitude of the Conservative loss — more than half of Tory MPs lost their seats — was accounted for by the perverse relationship between the Liberal Democrats' votes and their seats.

Losing one eighth of their votes, the Liberal Democrats nevertheless increased their representation by a factor of more than 2½, apparently largely because of tactical voting by anti-Tory voters in constituencies where Labour was badly placed to defeat the Tory candidate. For once the British electoral system worked in favour of the Liberal Democrats — although, of course, if this election had been held under proportional representation, their 18 seats would have grown not to 46 but to 131.

The significance of all this is that, in terms of votes, Labour's triumph is much more vulnerable to reversal than may have appeared from the way its victory has been reported. True, the disarray into which the Tories have been plunged by their performance in government and their internal divisions may prove too persistent to allow them to recover the ground they have lost within the lifetime of this Parliament. But if the parliamentary party has the sense and the luck to choose someone who can lead from the Centre rather than the extreme Right, it may fairly readily recover the support of the 3,000,000 Tory voters who effectively went on strike. So, even if at the next election there were to be no great swing back from Labour to the Conservatives, a recovery of the Tory abstentionist and protest votes could go a very long way towards restoring Conservative fortunes.

The election, with its 44.4 per cent Labour vote, was not anything like as decisive and sweeping a victory for Labour as it appears.

The author was Prime Minister of Ireland, 1981-82 and 1982-87.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 1992 & 1997

	Votes (millions)		
	1992	1997	Change
Conservative	14.05	9.59	-4.46
Labour	11.56	13.55	+1.99
Liberal Democrats	6.00	5.24	-0.76
Nationalists	0.78	0.78	0
Referendum	—	0.81	+0.81
Others	0.44	0.84	+0.40
Great Britain total	32.83	30.82	-2.01
Northern Ireland	0.79	0.79	0
Grand total	33.62	31.61	-2.01
Electorate	43.25	43.15	-0.10
Turnout	77.75%	73.3%	-4.45%

Own goal

RIPPLING through the classics libraries of Europe is the unusual sound of muffled laughter. A stylish hoax has been perpetrated on that most dear of German publications, *Der Neue Pauly*, the classical encyclopedia founded in Stuttgart in 1839 by the philologist and notorious party bore August Pauly.

News of the trick emerged when a fax arrived at Pisa's Biblioteca della Normale from the hoaxer, signing himself M. Mei, who is believed to be someone once slighted by the Pauly pointyheads.

There in column 895 of the first volume of the latest *Neue Pauly* is the entry for "Apodubalantes", a Greek word roughly translatable as "football". "An ancient sport," pronounces Pauly, "probably an early form of the modern football, although the details are not known. In fourth century BC Corinth, in the Gymnastika of Achilles Takikos there are the 'andres apodubalantes' (men who hit the ball with their feet)."

According to the bogus entry, a post-Ciceronian document refers to

leading "apodubalantes", and in the first and second centuries AD, the sport was taken by the Roman legions to Britain, from where it spread still further. Despite its enormous popularity, it was condemned in early Christian writings and does not appear after the fourth century AD.



Classic display of skills

In the brief bibliography ending the entry, three authors are listed: A. Pila, B. Pedes and M. Sammer. In Latin, *pila* means ball and *pedes* means foot. Matthias Sammer currently plays in defence for Borussia Dortmund and Germany.

● The latest to jump from the Tory bridge is Steve Hilton, 27, who helped to run the Tories' disastrous election advertising campaign from Central Office. Tutored in the dark arts by Maurice Saatchi, he was credited with much of the work on the "Labour's tax bombshell" campaign in 1992 and the demon eyes last year. Now, however, he is preparing to leave his mentor's company, M&C Saatchi, to form a rival with friends. Doubtless it will be joining the queue to bid for the Tory account for the next election.

Horseplay

NOWHERE was the social shift of the past ten days more obvious than at Badminton on Saturday. Strolling among the country sport lovers with his bodyguards, ignoring the anti-hunting stands, was the new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. Though a noted racing fan,

The French may well be about to change their failing government for one that is even worse

How France could sink the euro

The leading letter in Friday's issue of *Le Figaro* gives some idea of the tone of the French election. "Message to the undecided: in 1993, just four years ago, you atomised the sinister 'Mitterrand generation', with his doubtful suicides and his fortune-tellers, his mistresses... his double lives and double dealing, his Tapie, Pelat, Urbain-Gracco and Credit Lyonnais, his economic incompetence and all-powerful trade unions, his great works and huge waist... For heaven's sake, spare us a return to the past." Yves Michel, the author of this letter, expresses the anger felt by many on the French right about the corruption and incompetence of the Mitterrand years: though of course there has been sleaze on the Right as well.

By new Labour standards, the French Socialist Party ought still to be unelectable. There is the recent memory of the failures of 14 years of a Socialist President. The present leader, Lionel Jospin, is still unelectable, rather closer to Michael Foot than Tony Blair. Even the Social Democrat-Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima, in praising Blair, had to sidestep the implication that Jospin is "démoté". M. Jospin has no answers to the questions that have been put to him by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister: How can he finance Socialist policies without higher taxes? How can he prevent illegal immigration without the Pasqua-Debre laws? How can he build Europe in coalition with the anti-European communists? Which side of his party will win the battle over privatisation? There are no good answers; it is almost as though the Labour Party had fought the 1997 election, in Britain on its 1987 man-

ifesto, when the reform of the party had only just begun.

Yet the opinion polls have been moving in favour of the Socialists; it is possible that the next government of France will be a coalition of the Left including Communist ministers. How could this happen? To start with, both the President, Jacques Chirac, and the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, are very unpopular. As the former President Giscard d'Estaing has written, "a majority of the French are dissatisfied with the way they are being governed".

This is very like the resentment against John Major's administration, but in some ways it is worse. France has very high unemployment: about 70 per cent higher than Britain's. It also has very high taxation: about 25 per cent higher than Britain's. The Conservatives had been in power for 18 years; the Gaullists have had a majority in the Assembly for only four years, and have held the Presidency for only two. The Gaullists have governed worse, broken more promises and become more unpopular more rapidly than John Major.

President Chirac called the election a year early because he thought his party would do worse the longer he waited. The reason for that is the need to reduce the government deficit

to meet the Maastricht criteria. The programme of austerity and deflation comes at a time when one French worker in eight is already unemployed. Alain Juppé's campaign theme comes down to this: "Things are bad now, and if you re-elect us, we will make them much worse."

The Socialists may be incoherent, but the Gaullists, however unpleasant, are not. Already public opinion polls are giving the National Front 16 per cent of the vote on May 25, which is

the first ballot. Jean-Marie Le Pen has coined the phrase "better Jospin than Juppé", and has decided that National Front candidates will stay in for the second ballot, taking votes from the government candidates.

The strongest issues for the National Front are unemployment and immigration. Jacques Chirac promised to reduce unemployment as President; he has not even tried to do so. The Government has introduced

severe laws to stop illegal immigration: it has played the anti-immigrant card, but rather clumsily.

Indeed, Jean-Louis de Brle, the Interior Minister, has had to apologise for the anti-immigrant remarks he made at the start of the campaign. He said on April 28: "Will you accept that foreigners should come to your home, install themselves there, open your Frigidaire and help themselves?" He now says he meant to refer only to illegal immigrants. Even so, he has shown willingness but not the ability to try to beat the National Front at its own game. If this Frigidaire sound-bite is not racist, I do not know what would be.

In this strange election, there are many cross-currents. Significant supporters of the government parties, including Philippe Séguin, Alain Madelin and Charles Pasqua, are opposed to the Juppé regime. They offer an alternative: on the Right, but if the Socialists win the election, it will be too late for them: as well as for Juppé himself. There is growing national resentment at the arrogance and elitism of the French political class. One candidate has been attacked as "enarque, montain et parachuté", a graduate of the Ecole Nationale, and an outsider. The real France, "la France Profonde", has

come to distrust and dislike the political class. As Giscard has said, "The French wish to be governed in another way".

The election has already become venomous enough: there is no way, yet, of knowing who will be the victor on June 1. My own feeling is that once an election starts to slide away from a government, it usually goes on sliding. When President Chirac called this premature election, the first polls showed a government majority of around 40 seats; now that is down to zero. If Giscard is right, the French may have decided to change their government, even to one which could be considerably worse. For the French to vote for Lionel Jospin is a temptation of despair rather than an expression of hope.

Yet this is a very important election. The French Left is wholly committed to reducing unemployment. The propaganda talks of 700,000 new jobs. That cannot be achieved without accepting a higher deficit than the Maastricht 3 per cent, nor can the other Socialist promises be kept. It is a question of priorities. Lionel Jospin favours the euro in theory, but has promised to put employment first; he will depend in the Assembly upon the vote of Communists who oppose the euro as such. If on June 1 it comes clear that the French have taken Jean-Marie Le Pen's advice, "better Jospin than Juppé", France will not be able to join the euro on anything like the Maastricht terms. The exchange dealers will sell francs and buy marks. The British Government may be spared a difficult choice. The election is depressing and may be tragic, but it could decide the future of the European Union.

An activist leads the charge

Peter Riddell finds Robin Cook looking forward to changes at the Foreign Office



For twenty years, a relic of empire, an 1877 portrait of General Ranjane, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of Nepal, in full dress and sword in hand, has hung over the mantelpiece facing the Foreign Secretary's desk. It was chosen by David Owen, Labour's last Foreign Secretary, to replace one of Palmerston put there a decade earlier by George Brown. But Robin Cook, the new occupant of that most elegant of Whitehall offices, is having the picture taken down. "I want something that doesn't look back to the 19th century but is looking forward."

This symbolises Mr Cook's brisk determination to make a fresh start, as he emphasised when I saw him on Friday. Like so many new ministers, he is still in the first flush of enthusiasm about his new office, relishing the chance to use the levers of power after so long in opposition. Never lacking confidence in himself, he will today launch a grandly titled Mission Statement to proclaim his new priorities.

Mr Cook is Labour's 11th Foreign Secretary — enough for a cricket team, he remarks, though he would not be happy with all his team-mates. They have been a motley bunch, from Ramsay MacDonald (who combined the post with the premiership in 1924), via the giant Ernest Bevin in the late 1940s, the hapless Herbert Morrison (at least in that post), the ebullient George Brown and the avuncular James Callaghan to the brash David Owen. Mr Cook, a critic of some of them in his unilateralist days, accepts that it is hard to define a distinctively socialist foreign policy from this record, and he is therefore reluctant to define a specifically "new" Labour foreign policy.

Both reflecting a longstanding Labour belief in a moral and ethical

approach, he talks about "solidarity at an international level and interdependence". Today's statement will emphasise the global environment (particularly climate change), human rights and controls on arms exports. A moratorium on British use of land mines has already been announced, and a review is under way on sales of arms to Indonesia. This will be a test of the relative strengths of the contending schools of human rights and trade-comes-first, and it will be closely watched in many quarters.

There are echoes of David Owen in Mr Cook's desire to open up the Foreign Office, breaking down hierarchies, opening up communications and the like. Sir David Putnam has even been commissioned to make a video to be sent to missions abroad. Mr Cook is backing a new "offshore" — and independently financed — Foreign Policy Centre, to bring together academics, outside specialists and commentators to provide alternative policy advice. When I suggested that Chatham House (the Royal Institute for International Affairs) was sup-

posed to perform that role, he replied: "With no disrespect to that most august institution, I want something a little more questioning, more probing and more irreverent."

But his most important test will be Europe. Mr Cook is exploiting the goodwill that exists towards a new administration that is "willing to negotiate in earnest and to make a success of negotiations rather than heckling from down the table and seeking to undermine negotiations". Mr Cook talks of a "dramatic" response and "great enthusiasm" on his trips to Paris and Bonn. However, all new Foreign Secretaries sound optimistic about building a new relationship with France and Germany to create a Big Three, and they have all been disappointed. Mr Cook sounds almost like a Conservative of the less sceptical era before Margaret Thatcher's Bruges speech. But Europeans and Americans will be pleased that he has no hang-

ups about the "special relationship". Instead, he describes the alleged British choice between the Atlantic and Europe as an "absolutely pointless dichotomy. Britain is going to be a more valued, and valuable, ally of America if it is a nation that carries influence in Europe". However, he stresses the affinity between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, and his own similarities of approach with Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State. "We share an activism in our foreign policy."

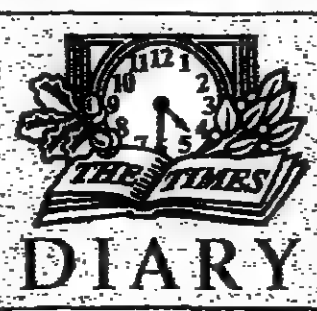
But the problems at the Foreign Office, and many policies, are the same as they were under the Conservatives. Enlargement of the European Union, reform of the common agricultural policy and completion of the single market will be no easier to achieve just because there is a new British Government. Mr Cook still has to produce something for the fishing industry on quota-hopping. But instead of threatening to block agreement at the Amsterdam summit, he talks more guardedly of the need for progress on the issue than

Mr Cook says that if we want progress it is "probably better not to shout 'No' at everything". He is hoping that Britain will be given a proper legal basis for retaining external border controls. He is willing to consider more co-operation on drugs and international crime. But he is as wary as the Tories of the general flexibility clause proposed by France and Germany to allow an inner core of nations to develop new arrangements under the EU's umbrella. He also opposes any moves towards "tutoring the EU into a defence organisation, or strengthening foreign policy co-operation. Under the Cook approach, Britain might be a more harmonious member of the EU, but it will still not be in the inner core.

Robin Cook remains a sceptic about European monetary union. When I suggested that Gordon Brown's decision last Tuesday to give the Bank of England operational responsibility for setting interest rates could open the way to British participation, his reply was an unequivocal no. "Gordon and Tony both made it very plain that it was a decision about the Bank and interest-rate policy in Britain, and in no way prompted by, or to be seen as, a step towards monetary union." While not ruling out participation in the current Parliament, he repeats his campaign refrain: that it is "unlikely". Mr Brown, however, wants to keep open that option. "Watch for skirmishes here — and possibly the key battle of this Government."

Mr Cook wants to remain involved in domestic politics despite the long periods of travelling. Of course, he will have Mr Blair's ear, since much of the travel is with the Prime Minister. He is also on Mr Blair's new strategy committee, and is represented on the daily co-ordinating meetings chaired by Peter Mandelson. And he is keen to press his views on constitutional change, particularly electoral reform.

What Mr Cook really wants is the wider influence of Bevin or Callaghan. Despite his own left-wing past, Mr Cook says that Bevin is the Labour Foreign Secretary he admires most. Perhaps he ought to find something of Bevin for the empty space over his mantelpiece — an acceptable "old" Labour hero for the Blairite era.



his love of three-day-evening is something quite new.

Meanwhile, eyeing him jealously through the crowd was Sebastian Coe, who was ousted as Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne, and who was watching his own horse tackling the cross-country.

It's got to be

EXPECTATIONS were low at Gordon Brown's drinks party for Treasury officials and journalists on Friday evening. In a week in which the talk had been of no lunching and government austerity, Brown, whose reputation is that of joyless roundhead-in-chief, had capped it all by saying his bash would be financed on his own rather than the public pocket.



"I'm programming it to kick over the board and go off in a huff"

The gloom deepened when guests arriving in Brown's vast new drawing room saw no sign of the small table in the far corner from which the Treasury bean-counters have traditionally permitted meagre rations and abysmal vignettes to be dispensed. Yet strangely, Brown was aglow.

The reason quickly became apparent when he pointed to a door leading off the drawing room. There was a whole room filled with cases far more palatable than the Treasury ever provided. "It was what they mean by lifting the dead hand of Treasury dogma and private-public partnership," said one of the guests, "long may it continue."

● In Washington last week, John F. Kennedy Jr. was working out in the gym of the Four Seasons hotel. In front, a woman grinding away on the treadmill spotted the hunk's reflection in the mirror, turned to stare and came crashing off the machine. Biceps Kennedy just kept on flexing.

Fawsley towers

CHIEF among the Tory leftovers that Labour is keen to shift is Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission. The new custodians of the Department of National Heritage would prefer a chairman with fewer Tory affiliations, political and cultural.

Their task, however, may not be easy. Fawsley has three years left on his contract, and when determined can be harder to budge than egg on a silk dressing-down. Time then for some lateral thinking.

Labour is wondering if cutting down on his perks, such as his government car, might encourage him



St John: finer things

to quit. Then there are the Commission's handsome offices in St James's Square. The threat of relocation, to say, Portland House in Stag Place, home of the smug Millennium Commission and Arts Council Lottery Board, may well be enough either to send Fawsley packing or at least ensure a sudden conversion leftwards.

Perhaps that new Labour purple wasn't so bad after all.



CHARLES SCOTT,
Ward Hadaway (solicitors),
Town Hall Chambers,
7 Beach Road,
South Shields, Tyne & Wear.
May 7.

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OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER MYLES OSBORN

Lieutenant-Commander Myles Osborn, DSO, DSC, wartime naval pilot died on May 2 aged 82. He was born in Lytham St Anne on December 15, 1914.

It was while flying a Swordfish with 829 Squadron from the aircraft carrier *Formidable* that Myles Osborn took part in the Battle of Cape Matapan on March 28, 1941, for which he was awarded the DSC. Admiral Cunningham, naval C-in-C in the Mediterranean, had learnt from Ultra decrypts that an Italian force, led by the fast battleship *Vittorio Veneto*, had sailed out to attack British convoys.

Cunningham intended that an advance squadron of four Allied cruisers should try to lure this force towards his three battleships, which were naturally immensely superior in gunpower. At 1500 hours, just as the Italian cruisers and battleship were assailing Cunningham's cruisers, 829's five attack aircraft — three Albacores and Osborn's two Swordfish — spotted the Italian battleship and attacked with torpedoes.

The intervention was decisive. Osborn led his sub-flight through heavy ack-ack fire towards the *Veneto*, his slow biplane "Stringbags" (Swordfish) drawing enemy fire. Although his torpedo missed, one faster Albacore hit the target close to her bows and the Italian battleship limped back to port, taking with her a cruiser escort which might have been more usefully employed in the subsequent engagement.

At dusk 829's aircraft returned and found and crippled the heavy cruiser *Pola*. She was later sunk by British destroyers. In a night action, the *Pola's* two sister cruisers, which had been sent to her aid, and two Italian destroyers were sunk. After the victory of Cape Matapan the Italian fleet ceased to pose a threat in the Mediterranean.

Osborn's father Ashby had been ranching in Canada when the First World War broke out, but he crossed the Atlantic and joined the Wiltshire Regiment, one of Kitchener's first 100,000 volunteers. He was killed in May 1917 in Mesopotamia.

Brought up by his mother Marjorie, who never remarried, George Myles Thomas Osborn passed through the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, between 1927 and 1931. His mother lost her savings in the Great Crash but the college chaplain was her brother and he paid for her son to complete his training. After serving in the Fleet as a midshipman, Osborn was recommended for a course in flying at Greenwich and subsequently served in various aircraft carriers.

At the outset of war "Wozzie" Osborn (the nickname was a reference to a favourite passage in *Winnie the Pooh*) was with 829 Squadron RN



Osborn, centre front row, and pilots and observers of his squadron in front of a Seaforce shortly after the war

in the Mediterranean, first in *Ark Royal*, then *Illustrious*. By the time of Matapan, he was one of the Navy's most experienced pilots and a natural leader. Attacking convoys and shipping supplying Axis forces in North Africa, Osborn believed in dropping his torpedo as close as 250 yards from the enemy and always from the regulation 60 feet. This called for rare flying skills and considerable sang-froid. Flying at around 90 mph, the Swordfish offered a slow, bulky and combustible target for enemy anti-aircraft fire.

During the Battle of Crete, *Formidable* was badly damaged by *Stukas* and she was sent to the USA for repairs. No 829 Squadron was disbanded. Osborn and four other experienced pilots joining 830 Squadron in Malta, at the beginning of June 1941. His first foray from Malta was a night attack against a large ship, steaming south at nine knots with all its lights burning brilliantly. Osborn spotted the red cross on her hull which denoted a hospital ship. Nevertheless he was ordered to attack —

intelligence had reported that Axis hospital ships might be carrying troops and arms. The independently-minded Osborn did not consider the target fair game and deliberately aimed his torpedo to miss astern. The squadron war diary blamed such poor marksmanship on "indiscipline". Over the next few months Osborn led numerous attacks on Axis ships, destroying at least 50,000 tons of enemy shipping carrying cargoes for Rommel's troops in North Africa. This earned him a DSO.

One night he found and sank an enemy merchant ship of 5,000 tons and a destroyer alongside her with a single torpedo, despite appalling visibility and a dense destroyer smoke screen. His repeated close range attacks on tankers and warships within Tripoli and Syracuse harbours called for the utmost skill and daring, through intense AA fire and a dense balloon barrage.

Osborn's luck ran out on the night of November 11, 1941, thanks to the stubbornness of a new squadron CO who insisted that the course he had

set would lead his four Swordfish back to Malta. Instead it resulted in their running out of fuel and ditching off the coast of Sicily. One crewmember was killed. Osborn intended to overpower the Italian coastal patrol that fished them out, but found he had lost the use of his legs through exhaustion. Osborn was incarcerated first in Italy, then after Mussolini's overthrow — in Germany. He made numerous escape attempts, being desperate to get back to the fight. He found that a persistent obstacle was the senior British officer; he was "like a senior prefect sucking up to the Head" — in this case the German Commandant — he later recalled.

Osborn retired from the navy as a lieutenant-commander in 1947, and joined the Colonial Service, serving first in Sierra Leone, then in Singapore and lastly for ten years in Malaya, where he was a District Officer. During the Emergency, he was involved in counter-insurgency, particularly with ensuring the loyalty of rural populations.

After independence he left the Colonial Service and in 1963 was employed under the Colombo Plan (the Commonwealth initiative of 1950 to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific) as "Hill Tribes adviser" to the Laotian Government, increasingly threatened by the Communist Pathet Lao. In fact he reported to M16. He was an expert on communist infiltration; his Malayan experience had taught him that the "hearts and minds" and the allegiance of the people were crucial.

For his work with M16 Osborn was appointed OBE. He retired to Spain in 1971. Myles Osborn was a short, forceful man with an impatient intelligence who dominated a room through charm and wit. His undiplomatically boozing parties in Ventiane were legendary. Only a succession of strokes in his last years reduced his physical and mental energy.

He married Pamela Dolman, née Sturges, the widow of an RAF officer, in 1947. He is survived by her and by their daughter.

GENEVRA CAWS

Genevra Caws, QC, barrister, died of a thrombosis on April 14 aged 48. She was born on February 21, 1949.

GENEVRA CAWS was considered by many to be the outstanding woman barrister of her generation. And, if her name was less well known to the public at large than that of some of her contemporaries, it was because of her range of qualities — the most outstanding of which was her modesty.

The daughter of Richard Caws, a chartered surveyor who was for 26 years a Crown Estate Commissioner, and his wife Fiona, she was christened Genevra Fiona Penelope Victoria, but was always known as Jenny.

She was educated at Northing Hill and Ealing High School, where she was an outstanding pupil, and of which she subsequently became a local governor. Awarded an exhibition in Classics to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, she went up in 1966 at the age of 17 to read law.

Her Oxford career was one of unblemished academic success. As the first woman to be elected to such a position in the Oxford University Law Society, she greatly enjoyed the title of Mistress of Moats. She won a distinction in Law Moderations, the Gibbs Law Scholarship, and a first in the Honour School of Jurisprudence in 1969.

A Duke of Edinburgh scholar of the Inner Temple, she did her first pupillage with Gordon (now Lord) Slynn, then Treasury, and then with David (now Mr Justice) Keene at Gray's Inn Square, where she spent the rest of her professional life.

While awaiting the interview for a scholarship from Inner Temple, she met her husband James Curtis, QC, who invited her out to tea. They married in 1985.

Jenny Caws developed a wide-ranging practice in commercial, employment, competition and administrative law, and featured in many reported cases. She was also well-known in the field of professional negligence and was recently described in a law journal as the "first choice on any case of substance".

She took silk in 1991. Shortly after she had put in her

application, she was invited by the Attorney-General to become Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue — the second most senior appointment open to the Junior Bar on the common law side. Had the invitation come a few weeks earlier, she might have accepted it; but after anxious consideration, she decided to pursue her chosen course and duly became a Queen's Counsel in the next Easter list.

The success she achieved in the front row can be seen by enumerating the clients who sought in recent years her services for important cases: the Law Society, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Further Education Funding Council, government departments and various local authorities.

Between 1993 and 1995 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in the Restrictive Practices Court in contempt proceedings brought against 13 ready-mixed concrete suppliers. This was one of the largest litigation actions in the history of the Office of Fair Trading and resulted in record fines. In 1996 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in bringing to an end the Net Books Agreement. She was elected a bencher of her Inn, the Inner Temple, in 1996.

She was as at home in Colin Rogers, Gloucestershire, where she and her family lived and farmed at weekends, as she was in her professional life in Chambers. She loved the beauty and simplicity of life in the country and particularly gardening and wild flowers. She and her husband became expert in sheep breeding, in which she studied and on which she grew very knowledgeable. She was a voracious reader. She was also a proficient fisherman and skier and it was in Val d'Isère, Switzerland, while on a skiing holiday, that she suddenly died.

Jenny Caws was a formidable lawyer. She had many strengths as an advocate, a gentle but firm voice and calm judgment. But what was best about her as a barrister, was what was best about her as a human being: patience, reasonableness, a courteous capacity to listen and a real warmth and understanding.

She is survived by her husband, a nine-year-old daughter, her parents, and a brother and a sister.

SRI MADHAVA ASHISH

Sri Madhava Ashish, British-born Hindu monk and Himalayan hill farmer, died at Mirtola, near Almora, Uttar Pradesh, on April 13 aged 77. He was born in Edinburgh on February 23, 1920.



BORN Alexander Phipps into a British Army family and educated in England, Madhava Ashish devoted his life to Indian esoteric thought, and to farming and conservation in the Himalayas.

His methods eventually began to be copied by other hill dwellers and, in some areas at least, erosion of the terrain began to be halted. He and his team were honoured by the President of India in 1992 with the Padma Shri Award.

Alexander Phipps was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Phipps, Royal Artillery. He was educated at St Albans, after which he trained as an engineer at the Chelsea Aeronautical Engineering College. He initially worked on testing aircraft in England before transferring to aircraft production at Dum Dum in India.

After the war he toured India and was captivated by the life at the ashram at Uttara Brindaban, in the corner of India between the borders of Tibet and Nepal.

The ashram, close to the 24,000ft Mt Nanda Devi peak, was run by Sri Krishna Prem, and after his death in 1965, by Ashish, the name Alexander had taken when he became a monk.

As a hill farmer he had become a pioneer of conservation in the Himalayas. The tragedy of the Himalayas is over-cropping by domestic animals which wander unchecked, making it impossible for younger plants to replace older trees when they are felled, leading to erosion on a catastrophic scale. Because of the relationship between the ashram and the village Ashish was able to enclose the village land on the mountain so that hungry domestic animals could not browse destructively, at will.

He then built a zoo in

reverse, with the wild animals on the outside of the cages (sometimes asleep on top of them) and the domestic animals restrained inside, with their food being harvested and brought to them to feed. The cages, tiger and leopard proof, were protected by Bhutia dogs which he acquired from the nomadic herdsmen.

Through this enclosure he created a green mountain which, when seen from the air, stands out like an oasis in the desert. This experiment in hill farming is successfully being copied by others. The subject of agriculture, for which he wrote much of the curriculum, is now taught in the mountain schools.

Nominally a Hindu, he saw all religions as having a common goal. He spent much time meditating and helping others to search for their path to God. He became interested in Indian esoteric thought after he first visited the ashram of Ramana Maharshi, and continued his studies with Sri Krishna Prem with whom he was co-author of *Man the Measure of all Things*.

He was the author of *Man, Son of Man, a Cosmology*, and published papers on *The Secret Doctrine as a Contribution to World Thought* and *The Guru as Exemplar and Guide to the Term of Human Evolution*.

Dr David Lewes, consultant cardiologist, died on April 22 aged 81. He was born on August 26, 1915.

AN AFFABLE, pipe-smoking doctor with an eclectic array of interests, David Lewes brought a warmth, humanity and enthusiasm to everything he did. As a cardiologist at Bedford Hospital he excelled, always pushing at the frontiers of knowledge. It was he who — using mummex graters as a prototype — invented multi-point electrodes for electrocardiographs. These were used by NASA on its space missions.

A keen amateur botanist, he published, among other things, a study of mushroom poisoning and a paper on exploding marrows. A humanist, he argued the innocence of James Hanratty, convicted of the A6 murders.

David Steel Lewes was born in Sydney, Australia, and educated at King's School, Paramatta, in New South Wales. It was as an amateur chemist that he really excelled as a schoolboy and his father — though strictly Victorian in his values (he once censored his son for calling him Daddy) — encouraged him, allowing him access to any chemicals he wanted. Lewes would use home-made explosives to en-

tertain his friends.

This inspired his elder brother, Jack, to follow suit and eventually led to him inventing the Lewes Bomb which gave the Special Air Service teeth in sabotaging enemy installations.

In 1934 Lewes entered Christ Church, Oxford, graduating with first-class honours in medicine. His final year was spent researching into Vitamin C and its effect, under Sir Solly Zuckerman.

He went on to work at the London Hospital, where he gained a wide general medical experience, though his particular interest was cardiology. He qualified in 1941, and six months later found himself working at Southend General Hospital. There he was responsible for running the entire medical side of the hospital's work.

He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians and, in 1944, joined the RAF. Posted to the Azores he found himself faced with a sudden mass outbreak of typhoid and salmonella. It was he who located the source of the outbreak — a cook in a restaurant kitchen — and helped to treat and control it.

After the war, Lewes was made Patterson Research Scholar in the cardiac department of the London Hospital. In 1948 he was appointed tutor

in medicine and senior registrar at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith. But, an enthusiastic amateur botanist, he also worked at this time on a study for Kew Gardens of a type of exploding marrow. It was this article which was to catch the attention of the selection committee for Bedford General Hospital. Impressed by his original and inquiring mind, they appointed him consultant physician in 1952.

Humanitarian in outlook, Lewes was deeply concerned about injustice. After the apprehension of James Hanratty, Lewes was affronted when national newspapers seemed to condemn Hanratty before his trial. Having a few weeks leave at that time, Lewes sat in court throughout the entire proceedings. He had a photographic memory and perceived what he thought were anomalies in the case brought against Hanratty. His thoughts on the matter were extensively used by Paul Foot.

Lewes also wrote many articles on cardiology and other subjects in *The Lancet* and *The British Medical Journal*, publishing at least one a year until his retirement in 1981.

He is survived by his wife Daphne, and by three daughters and a son.



Anniversaries

BIRTHS:

John Bell, surgeon, Edinburgh, 1763; Edward Lear, artist and poet, London, 1812; Florence Nightingale, hospital reformer, Florence, 1820; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter, founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1828; Jules Massenet, composer, Montaud, France, 1842; Gabriel Fauré, composer, Permes, Ariège, France, 1845; Lincoln Ellsworth, polar explorer, Chicago, 1880; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, Oxford, 1903; Tony Hancock, comedy actor, Birmingham, 1924.

DEATHS:

Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford, statesman, executed, London, 1641; August Wilhelm Schlegel, poet, Bonn, 1845; Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Gothic revival,

London, 1860; Bedrich Smetana, composer, Prague, 1884; Amy Lowell, poet, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1925; Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, man of letters, Fowey, Cornwall, 1944; Erich von Stroheim, actor and film director, Maurepas, France, 1957; John Massfield, poet Laureate 1930-67, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, 1967; John Smith, leader of the Labour Party 1992-94, London, 1994.

The General Strike ended, 1926.

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded by William Wilson in Akron, Ohio, 1935.

The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1937.

The minimum voting age in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18, 1969.

Service dinners

The Queen's Royal Lancers Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancers, presided at the annual reunion dinner of The Queen's Royal Lancers Regimental Association held on Saturday at the Waldorf Hotel.

The Queen's Royal Hussars Major-General Richard Barron, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Hussars, presided at the annual dinner of the Regimental Association held on Saturday at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch.

No 16 RFC and RAF Association

Air Marshal Sir David Cousins, President of No 16 RFC and RAF Association, accompanied by Lady Cousins, entertained guests at the annual dinner held on Saturday at the RAF Club.

British Army Civil Affairs Group Brigadier A.S. Craig, Commander Engineers Land, was the principal guest at the inaugural dinner of the British Army Civil Affairs Group held on Saturday at the Royal Engineers Officers Mess, Minley Manor.

Lieutenant-Colonel P.W. Hayward Broomfield, Commanding Officer, was in the chair.

Service luncheon

1st Gurkha Rifles Major-General D.G.T. Horsford presided at a luncheon held on Saturday at the Churkha Museum, Winchester, to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1st Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

BORN MAY 12, 1820

It is 100 years ago to-day since Florence Nightingale was born. When Queen Victoria, her senior by a year, came to the Throne, she was a girl of 17. Nineteen years later she came home from the Crimea, having made her name, for all the world as long as the world shall last, an abiding symbol of the highest and purest womanly devotion. From then to the day of her death, only four years before the storm of the Great War burst upon Europe, she was almost always confined to her house. The strain of her work for the sick and wounded and dying soldiers had sapped her bodily strength. But the flame of her soul was never quenched. The lamp that she had lit at Scutari burnt steadily to the end. Those 54 years of invalid life in Mayfair were even more fruitful in service to the Army and humanity in general than the long and strenuous and agonizing months of her toil at the

ON THIS DAY

May 12, 1920

The centenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale provided an opportunity for a reappraisal of her work, and a salute to one who "being dead yet speaketh"

seat of war. When, a year or two before her death, she received the Order of Merit, the fact that she was still alive came as something of a surprise to most of her fellow-countrymen. For them she was the Lady of the Lamp. They knew of what she had done for the Army of the Crimea, with Sidney Herbert at the War Office and Dr. W.H. Russell in the field to help her. Comparatively few of the rank and file were aware of the existence of that marvellous driving force which by years of incessant labour revolution-

ized the whole system of medical and surgical and sanitary treatment in the Army, and made nursing the honoured and highly efficient profession that it now is. "Such a head!" wrote Queen Victoria. "I wish we had her at the War Office." As it was, she was outside its walls, but she stormed and conquered it from her bed. She was, and by many still is, looked upon as a gentle, quiet, womanly, self-sacrificing saint. In a sense all of that was true. But the saint was very human. Not her gentleness but her strength won her the victory. It was by her businesslike brain, by her passionate dislike and contempt for feebleness and inefficiency and wrong, no less than by her vision and her great heart, that she brought order out of chaos. She was a fighter and remained a fighter when most women and most men stricken as she was would have turned their faces to the wall. St. Paul rather than St. John was her prototype, and she lives forever as one of the strongest as well as one of the foremost women of the Victorian era and of all time.

NEWS

Howard campaign suffers setback

Michael Howard's Tory leadership bid suffered a serious setback when it emerged that two former ministerial colleagues plan to go public with damaging allegations about his performance as Home Secretary.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister of State from July 1995, will break her silence over Mr Howard's controversial dismissal of Derek Lewis as director general of the Prisons Service in October 1995. Page 1

Brown to phase out mortgage tax relief

Gordon Brown will use his first Budget to launch a purge on the "get-rich-quick" culture and to use new taxes to fund a radical welfare programme. One of the biggest changes will be the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief that gives some ten million homeowners help of £27 a month. Page 1

Brown suits himself

Gordon Brown is to slay another sacred cow next month by abandoning formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech. Page 1

Hague's party piece

William Hague is to take his Tory leadership campaign to the party's local activists by embarking next week on a tour of constituency associations. Page 2

Rover's long life

Science has discovered that a year-old dog is a fully grown and sexually mature 18-year-old, and not seven years as Britain's 6.5 million dog owners persist in thinking. Page 3

Blunkett's agenda

The Government will force local authorities to shut failing schools that are not improving, even before the law is in place. David Blunkett said: "I want to create momentum." Page 8

Teenage hang-ups

Most children, aged 11 to 16, worry about their appearance, with concerns topped by overweight, spots and ugly teeth. Girls and poorer children are more anxious about their looks. Page 5

Gulf War inquiry

Defence ministers are to order a new investigation into the extent of the official "cover up" over the "Gulf War syndrome". Page 6

Kasparov battles for Man's honour

Garry Kasparov, "the last best hope of mankind", was worried as he prepared for the final duel in the six-game chess match with the IBM computer Deep Blue. Man and machine have three draws and one win each. The Russian grandmaster said of his silicon rival: "I can out-calculate any player in the world, but I cannot out-calculate the machine." Page 13

Flight to map route

At the invitation of the Russian Air Force three RAF pilots are to fly across the former Soviet Union to map a commercial air route. Page 9

Second take

Joel Maraden, a young film-maker, is surprised that Steven Spielberg's latest movie bears uncanny similarities to his own. Both stories are about slave-ship uprisings and Spielberg is using the same set and the same principal actor. Page 7

Swiss 'link to SS'

A Swiss newspaper said Credit Suisse, now Switzerland's second largest bank, dealt directly with the Nazi SS corps which operated a secret account in the bank to launder money. Page 11

Pope's homily

The Pope has called for Lebanon's "total independence" but stopped short of saying that Syrian and Israeli forces should withdraw. Page 12

Help for Iran

An international relief operation is preparing to help Iran cope after an earthquake left at least 2,400 dead. Page 10

Attack on elite

Voters are blaming France's elite institution that produces so many of its top politicians, corporate leaders and civil servants for the country's ills. Page 14



The Queen Mother with old comrades from the combined cavalry regiments at a service in their honour in Hyde Park yesterday.

Business

Jobs data: The Government is to launch a review of unemployment figures, which is likely to result in radical changes to the way that they are calculated. Page 48

Pensions rebuster: Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has summoned leaders of life and pensions companies to demand a prompt resolution of the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal. Page 45

Star guest: American soprano Susan Patterson makes her London debut as Violetta in the ENO production of *La Traviata*. Page 18

Cannes reviews: Geoff Brown reviews the opening films in the 50th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, including Luc Besson's sci-fi adventure *The Fifth Element*. Page 19

Melvyn Bragg writes

"Whatever this Government does or does not do, broadcasting, and culture in its widest sense including tourism, will increase in importance and wealth." Page 18

Thumbs up: At the Old Vic, the Peter Hall company stages a new production of Chekhov's *The Seagull* that strikes a perfect balance between laughter and pain. Page 18

Family ties: Jason Connery hopes his latest film role, as Macbeth, will finally free him from comparisons with 007. Page 16

Secret paths: For modern women, midlife is the last remaining mystery but a Cambridge academic argues that it holds the secret of new growth, reassessment and renewed confidence. Page 17

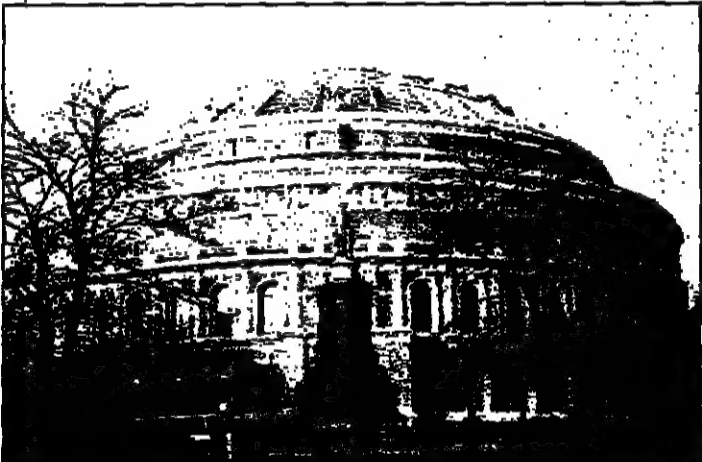
Floating timebomb: Why did Hindenburg go up in flames? Scientists take another look at the Zeppelin disaster. Page 15

Science briefing: Using satellite images, scientists have pinpointed eight quarries worked by the first settlers of North America up to 10,000 years ago. Page 15

IN THE TIMES

COMPETITION
Heading for the Albert Hall: how 500 kids can win tickets to the Junior Prom

LAW
A QC and a solicitor put the new Lord Chancellor on the spot

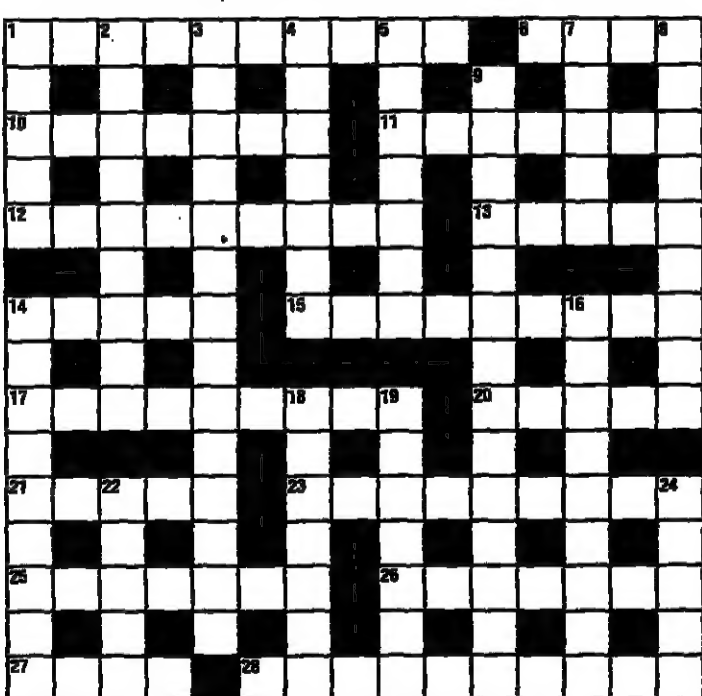


IN THE TIMES

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,477



- ACROSS**
- College has exotic trees planted by crank (10).
 - Article finally exposes character on the staff (4).
 - American doctors operating using Buggins' method, we hear (7).
 - Zola's initial reason for moving (7).
 - Break down as offer is beginning to excite (9).
 - Teams scored before 13th July, for instance (5).
 - A sort of nose mostly okay for smell (5).
 - Morning gathering for children to sing (4,2,3).
 - Flower-girl replacing centre of third cape (5,6).
 - He may take some interest if you pop in his shop (5).
 - Create right fuss after Company cancel steamer for island (5).
 - State of string in an instrument, maybe (9).

- DOWN**
- Integration achieved by single head (7).
 - His pulling out may hasten loss of set (7).
 - Notice pipe's beginning to leak (4).
 - After dropping one, coach gets criticised and moved (10).
 - Refuse, you say, to specify this body-part (5).
 - Remains of bread and butter (3,6).
 - The sailors' duet when adrift in calm waters (5,9).
 - Upsetting reports about son in part of school year (7).
 - Under a day before spider achieves the greatest height (7).
 - He's landed face-up right in it (5).
 - It offers a choice for those entering pools (9).
 - Walkabout — how like our monarch (14).
 - About to get gold medal in sporting event (9).
 - High speed isn't breaking hand that turns (5).
 - Zola, for example, presenting a small volume to employer (7).
 - Row past sandy ridge in faraway port (7).
 - This magistrate always sent up without quarrel (5).
 - Well-known saw (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,476 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AIR INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0326 444 910
UK Road - All regions 0326 401 410
Police 999
Fire 999
Ambulance 999
Road traffic 999
Police 999
Fire 999
Ambulance 999
Road traffic 999

Weather by Fax
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